



Procurement and Contracting Services
30 Victoria Street, Gatineau QC K1A 0M6

Supplier@elections.ca

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer File No.:

ECBR-RFI-17-0588

Title:

Security and IT Security
Services

Date:

January 15, 2018

Closing Date and Time:

January 30, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. EST

ENQUIRIES

Address enquiries to:

Supplier@elections.ca

Attention:

Barbara D. Robertson

Tel No.

819-939-1493

RESPONSES

Submit responses to:

Supplier@elections.ca

This Request for Information (“RFI”) contains the following information:

- PART 1. Background and Purpose**
- PART 2. Nature of Request for Information**
- PART 3. Nature and Format of Responses Requested**
- PART 4. Response Costs**
- PART 5. Treatment of Responses**
- PART 6. Official Languages**
- PART 7. Information Requested by Elections Canada**
- PART 8. Format of Responses**
- PART 9. Enquiries**
- PART 10. Submission of Responses**

Annexes

Annex A – Security Areas of Interest

Annex B – Questions to Industry

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Security and IT Security Services

PART 1. Background and Purpose

1.1. Purpose

In order to assist Elections Canada (EC) in refining its requirements, EC is seeking feedback from suppliers regarding its requirement for Security and IT Security Services.

EC is seeking information from suppliers in the security industry about possible solutions to help preserve the integrity of future Canadian elections. Annex A contains information on EC's specific security areas of interest and general compatibility requirements.

1.2. EC Mandate

EC, headed by the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), an agent of Parliament, is an independent, non-partisan agency with unique organizational features that reports directly to Parliament. EC exercises general direction and supervision over the conduct of election events such as general elections, by-elections and referendums at the federal level. Its mandate is to:

- a) be prepared to conduct a federal general election, by-election or referendum;
- b) administer the political financing provisions of the Canada Elections Act (CEA);
- c) monitor compliance with electoral legislation;
- d) conduct public information campaigns on voter registration, voting and becoming a candidate;
- e) conduct education programs for students on the electoral process;
- f) provide support to the independent commissions in charge of adjusting the boundaries of federal electoral districts following each decennial census;
- g) carry out studies on alternative voting methods and, with the approval of parliamentarians, test alternative voting processes for future use during electoral events; and
- h) provide assistance and cooperation in electoral matters to electoral agencies in other countries or to international organizations.

1.3. Project Description

EC's security mandate is to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Canadian elections and related data. This RFI is being released to obtain more information about new tools, software, or solutions to help the EC security team achieve their mandate.

1.4. **Desired Outcomes and Expectations**

The objectives of this RFI are to:

- a) Provide EC with more information about current and upcoming security trends from a supplier perspective;
- b) Provide EC with recommendations on potential solutions for EC's security needs;
- c) Identify suppliers to demo their products or solutions to EC in a way that aligns with EC's mandate;
- d) Help provide EC with a forward path to improved security posture.

PART 2. Nature of Request for Information

This is not a solicitation of bids or proposals. This RFI may not lead to the launching of a procurement process, the award of any contract or the creation of a source list. As a result, suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. Therefore, whether or not any supplier responds to this RFI, it will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement. Also, the decision to whether or not to launch a procurement process for any of the goods or services described in this RFI is entirely at the sole discretion of EC. EC reserves the right to cancel or modify any of the preliminary requirements described herein. This RFI is simply intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the matters described herein and should not be considered as an authorization to undertake any work that would result in costs being charged to EC. EC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all comments received. Further respondent engagement may be conducted by EC which may include supplier engagement days, one-on-one meetings, product demonstrations, requesting additional information from respondents, etc.

PART 3. Nature and Format of Responses Requested

Respondents are invited to provide their comments, concerns and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied. Respondents are also invited to provide comments regarding the content, format and/or organization of any draft documents included in this RFI. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

PART 4. Response Costs

EC will not reimburse any respondent for any expenses or costs incurred in responding to this RFI.

PART 5. Treatment of Responses

5.1. Use of Responses

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by EC to develop or modify procurement strategies or any draft documents contained in this RFI. EC will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. EC may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

5.2. Review Team

A review team composed of representatives from EC will review the responses. EC reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

5.3. Confidentiality

Respondents are solely responsible for marking any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. EC will handle the responses in accordance with the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*.

5.4. Follow-Up Activity

EC intends to conduct Supplier Engagement Days where respondents may be invited to demonstrate and share how their solutions support EC's security requirements. EC currently anticipates holding any such Supplier Engagement Days during February and March 2018.

EC currently anticipates the schedule of each supplier presentation during the Supplier Engagement Day to be as follows:

Introduction	10-15 minutes
Overview of specific product, service or solution matching the identified Area of Interest	10-20 minutes
Demonstration	15-30 minutes
Value added to EC	15-20 minutes
Q&A	10-15 minutes

Responses that best match the criteria outlined in Annex A and Annex B will be considered for participation in the Supplier Engagement Days. Responses that meet multiple criteria will be considered first.

In order to allow EC to establish the schedule for such meetings, respondents are invited to include in their responses an indication of whether they wish to meet with EC, together with a list of the individuals from their organization who would be attending the meeting and their three preferred meeting times. Please refer to Part 1 of Annex B.

EC cannot guarantee that any respondent will be allocated any of its preferred meeting times. The Contracting Authority will advise respondents in due course of the time slot available for their meeting.

PART 6. Official Languages

Responses to this RFI may be submitted in either of the official languages of Canada, French or English.

PART 7. Information Requested by Elections Canada

7.1. Responses to Questions to Industry

EC requests responses to the questions found in Annex B – Questions to Industry.

Additional supporting documents may be sent via the email address and by the closing date and time identified on the cover page of this document.

PART 8. Format of Responses

8.1. Cover Page

If the response includes multiple volumes, respondents should indicate on the front cover page of the response the title of the response, the RFI number, and the number of volumes and the full legal name of the respondent.

8.2. Title Page

The first page of each volume of the response should be the title page, which should contain:

- a) the title of the respondent's response and the volume number;
- b) the name and address of the respondent;
- c) the name, address, telephone number and email address of the respondent's contact;
- d) the date; and
- e) the RFI number.

8.3. Numbering System

Respondents should 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.

PART 9. Enquiries

This is not a solicitation, therefore EC will not necessarily respond to enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential respondents. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to the Contracting Authority via the email address identified on the cover page of this document.

PART 10. Submission of Responses

10.1. Time and Place for Submission of Responses

Respondents interested in providing a response should submit it by email to the Contracting Authority via the email address and by the closing date and time identified on the cover page of this document.

10.2. Responsibility for Timely Delivery

Each respondent is solely responsible for ensuring its response is delivered on time to the correct location.

10.3. Identification of Response

Each respondent should ensure that its name, contact person and email address, the RFI number and the closing date are included in their response in a prominent location.

ANNEX A – SECURITY AREAS OF INTEREST

PART 1. Security Areas of Interest

- 1.1. EC is seeking information from suppliers in the security industry about possible solutions to help preserve the integrity of future Canadian elections specifically related to the following Areas of Interest.
- 1.2. The Criteria listed for each Area of Interest identify the functionalities or abilities the product, service or solution should possess.

Area of Interest	Criteria
Whitelisting & EndPoint Management	Should have the ability to stop all unapproved software from running
	Should have the ability to easily update/modify the list of approved software
	Should allow application sandboxing/isolation
	Should provide behavioral analysis to detect potential malware
Anomalous Traffic Patterns, IT Forensics & Vulnerability Management	Should provide email and SMS notifications
	Should allow mobile devices as a notification source
Emergency Notification Systems	Should monitor unusual activity on infrastructure
	Should provide alerting/notification of suspicious activity
	Should provide automated response capability
	Should allow blocking of unauthorized data devices (i.e. USB Drives, DVDs)
Data Loss Prevention	Should provide visualizations of network data flows
	Should provide real-time alerting of traffic anomalies
	Should provide forensics capabilities for computers, servers and mobile devices
	Should provide tools to maintain evidence integrity and chain of custody
	Should provide automated scanning to identify assets and discover vulnerabilities
	Should provide a catalog of discovered vulnerabilities and prioritize those with the highest risk
	Should provide options or information on how to mitigate discovered vulnerabilities

PART 2. General Compatibility Requirements

- 2.1. Where applicable, the proposed product, service or solution should meet the following requirements:
- a) Product software should work with windows Server 2008, 2012, 2016 and Windows 7, 10
 - b) Product software should work with Redhat Enterprise Linux
 - c) Email should work with Microsoft Exchange Server
 - d) Authentication should work with AD/Kerberos
 - e) Virtualization should work with VMware
 - f) Product software should be able to integrate with commercially available SIEM software
 - g) If a vendor is offering software as a service, all data should remain in Canada

ANNEX B – QUESTIONS TO INDUSTRY

PART 1. Availability

- 1.1. Are you interested and able to provide a product demonstration or presentation in the National Capital Region during February and March 2018?
- 1.2. Considering the possible time slots and proposed period per Area of Interest provided below, for each Area of Interest you propose to address, please complete one copy of the following Table 1.3.

TABLE 1.3		
Area of Interest		
Name of Individuals / Title		
Preferred Time Slot		
	Date	Time (between the hours of ___ and ___)
#1		
#2		
#3		

Possible Time Slots			
8:00 – 9:30	10:00 – 11:30	12:30 – 2:00	2:30 – 4:00
Proposed Period per Area of Interest			
Whitelisting & EndPoint Management			February 20 to 22
Anomalous Traffic Patterns, IT Forensics & Vulnerability Management			February 27 to March 1
Emergency Notification Systems			March 6 to 8
Data Loss Prevention			March 13 to 15

PART 2. Product, Service or Solution

- 2.1. What is the name of your product, service or solution?
- 2.2. Which of the security areas of interest, listed in Annex A, are applicable to the product, service or solution? Please elaborate on how the product, service or solution addresses the criteria outlined in Annex A.
- 2.3. Using a table similar to the example below, please identify if your product, service or solution meets the General Compatibility Requirements outlined in Annex A and provide a justification or additional information for each requirement.

Sample Table in Response to 2.3		
Product/Service/Solution Name		
Respondent to insert		
General Compatibility Requirement	Meets?	Justification/Description
Product software should work with windows Server 2008, 2012, 2016 and Windows 7, 10.	Respondent to insert yes or no	Respondent to insert details to describe how the solution currently meets this requirement, how it may meet this requirement in the future or why this requirement is not applicable
Product software should work with Redhat Enterprise Linux	Respondent to insert yes or no	Respondent to insert details to describe how the solution currently meets this requirement, how it may meet this requirement in the future or why this requirement is not applicable

- 2.4. What operating model does the product, service or solution use (e.g. stand-alone, software, SAAS etc.)?
- 2.5. What is the pricing model for the product, service or solution?
- 2.6. Is the product, service or solution currently in-use by one of the following? If so, please elaborate (e.g. which organization, for what purpose, for how long etc.).
 - a) Government of Canada department or agency
 - b) Other Canadian government organization – municipal, provincial, Crown Corporation
 - c) Other non-Canadian government organization
 - d) Other organization similar to Elections Canada