



**RETURN BIDS TO:
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Specified Herein / Précisé aux présentes

**AMENDMENT – MODIFICATION
LETTER OF INTEREST
LETTRE D'INTÉRÊT**

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

**Vendor/Firm Name and Address
Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur**

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Informatics and Telecommunications Systems
Procurement Directorate/
Direction de l'acquisition de systèmes
informatiques et de télécommunications
11C1, Phase III
Place du Portage
11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier
Gatineau, Québec
K1A 0S5

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Title-Sujet High Resolution Imagery Acquisition Acquisition d'images à haute résolution | | |
| Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation 23240-161141/A | Date 2018-03-02 | |
| Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client 23240-161141 | | |
| GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-16-00729541 | | |
| File No. – N° de dossier 003ST.23240-161141 | Amendment No. – Modification 026 | |
| Solicitation Closes – L'invitation prend fin at – à 5:00 PM on – le 2018-04-12 | | Time Zone Fuseau horaire Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) / Heure avancée de l'Est (HAE) |
| F.O.B. – F.A.B. Plant-Usine : <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Crncan, Adriana | | Buyer Id – Id de l'acheteur 003ST |
| Telephone No. - N° de téléphone 613-858-9127 | | FAX No. - N° de FAX 819-956-2675 |
| Destination of Goods, Services and Construction: Destinations des biens, services et construction : Specified Herein Précisé aux présentes | | |

Instructions : See Herein

Instructions : voir aux présentes

| | |
|---|--|
| Delivery Required - Livraison exigée See Herein – voir aux présentes | Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée |
| Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur | |
| Telephone No. - N° de telephone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur | |
| Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie) | |
| Signature | Date |

This amendment 026 to the Request for Information (RFI) 23240-161141/A is raised to extend the RFI closing date to April 12, 2018 at 5:00pm EDT in order to allow more time for consultation with Industry, and to incorporate the attached Request for Information – Part 2 document.

Therefore:

At page 1, under “Solicitation Closes”:

DELETE: at – à 5:00 PM
 on – le 2018-03-06

INSERT: at – à 5:00 PM
 on – le 2018-04-12

At page 7, Article 9. Closing Date:

DELETE: The closing date of this Industry Consultative Process is March 6, 2018, 17h00 EST. RFI Responses received beyond this date may not be given further consideration.

INSERT: The closing date of this Industry Consultative Process is April 12, 2018, 17h00 EDT. RFI Responses received beyond this date may not be given further consideration.



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) – Part 2
for
High Resolution Imagery Acquisition

THIS IS *NOT* A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL, QUOTATION, OR INVITATION TO BID NOTICE.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), on behalf of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), is releasing this Request for Information (RFI) – Part 2 as the next step to inform industry and to seek input of the possible procurement of a license to high-resolution optical satellite imagery covering the entire landmass of Canada, to be accessed through the Web.

Interested suppliers can register and request draft Request for Proposal (RFP) documents from the Procurement Authority by email. The draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2 will be provided to each Respondent by email upon registration. The remaining draft RFP documents will be provided to Respondents by email as they become available.

Engagement provides Industry with the opportunity to present their capabilities and considerations regarding Canada’s requirements for a license to high-resolution optical satellite imagery to be accessed through the Web. Canada may use the information gathered to determine changes that should be included that will meet its needs and be consistent with Industry standard practices.

The Industry Consultative Process begins following the publication on Buy and Sell of the Request for Information (RFI) Package, and concludes with the dissemination of the RFI Findings Document.

Respondents are invited to submit their responses to this RFI. Industry Engagement Questions are included with this RFI to provide Industry the opportunity to review and prepare written comments which may serve to facilitate this consultation process. The Rules of Engagement for this Industry Consultative Process can be found at Annex “B”, Engagement Participation Form.

2. BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada has made continuous efforts over time to make national coverage of the most cost-effective optical satellite imagery available to all Canadians. In the past, images were made available through the National Landsat Mosaic (15m resolution, circa 2000), and a National SPOT 4/5 data collection (10m resolution, circa 2007). Despite being out of date and of variable quality, these open datasets continue to be amongst the most highly utilized optical satellite datasets across Canada. The capabilities of next generation satellite sensors could greatly improve upon these national coverages.

Over the last several years, a collection of National Master Standing Offers (NMSOs) has been in place to facilitate the licensing of high resolution optical satellite imagery to Canada. These NMSOs have been used to acquire a large amount of satellite imagery with a significant coverage of Canada’s landmass, albeit with a high degree of overlap.

Traditionally, imagery was acquired on an as-needed or as-requested basis, meaning each image was individually purchased. User needs have evolved over the last decade and many user communities require higher resolution imagery and modern access methods. This procurement seeks to meet these needs by making high resolution imagery available through a “subscription-like” procurement approach.

3. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

“Respondents” to the RFI are defined as companies or consortia of companies with the capabilities to deliver the requirements identified in this document. Respondents wishing to participate in this consultative process must complete, sign and return the Engagement

Participation Form, along with its Appendices, to the Procurement Authority identified in Section 13, below.

The information provided by Respondents may be used to refine the current requirement, the procurement strategy and/or the project cost envelope. The information gathered through the RFI may also be used to assist Canada in the development of the competitive Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Respondents are invited to submit a reply to the RFI that addresses each of the topics identified in Annex “A”, Industry Engagement Questions.

3.1. Recommendations, Suggestions or Comments

Respondents are invited to provide general feedback and/or any recommendations, inputs or comments (including technical and/or costing information) that could assist Canada in the refinement of the requirement.

3.2. Contractual Information and Procurement Process

Should Canada move forward with the procurement process (after closing of this Industry Consultative Process), the RFP will include the resulting contract, the mandatory and point rated evaluation criteria, certifications, basis of payment and all other required documents. The RFP will be posted on the BuyandSell.gc.ca website.

It is anticipated that 2035 (2016-04-04), General Conditions – Higher Complexity - Services will apply to any resulting contract.

3.3. Security Requirements

There are no security requirements.

4. REQUIREMENT DESCRIPTION

The objective of the National Coverage Imagery (this procurement) is for Canada to acquire a three year licence to high-resolution optical satellite imagery covering the entire landmass of Canada accessed through the Web.

The National Coverage Imagery will be used by Canada’s scientists, professionals and technicians. It will provide the intelligence required for evidence-based decision-making. Moreover, the implementation of the National Coverage Imagery will provide up-to-date and accurate imagery that will lead to a vast array of applications such as: detection and collection of key detailed land surface features (urban areas, transport/energy networks, lakes and rivers, crop yield mapping), background imagery as well as multi-temporal analysis.

5. REQUESTED INFORMATION

Respondents are invited to consult Annex “A”, Industry Engagement Questions, and to request the most recent copy of the Draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2, as well as the applicable draft Request for Proposal (RFP) documents, by email from the Procurement Authority identified in Section 13, in order to provide their response(s) to the requested information.

All interested suppliers are encouraged to request the latest version of the draft Statement of Work and draft RFP documents, as many of the requirements have been updated since the previous version.

To facilitate the review of the responses, Respondents are asked to address and present the requested information in the order in which the topics are presented.

6. NOTES TO INTERESTED RESPONDENTS

The RFI is not a bid solicitation and does not constitute a commitment, implied or otherwise, that the Government of Canada will take procurement action in this matter. The issuance of the 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 any suggestions from Respondents. Canada reserves the right to accept or reject any or all comments received.

Further, Canada will not be responsible for any cost incurred by Respondents in furnishing responses.

A review team composed of representatives of Canada will review the responses on behalf of Canada. Canada may also use an independent consultant or any Government resources, including representatives from provincial and territorial governments, that it considers necessary to review response(s). Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses. If required, the independent consultant(s) and representatives from provincial and territorial governments will sign a non-disclosure agreement before they review any response or participate in One-on-One Industry Meetings. Canada will provide their information via an amendment to this RFI.

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

6.1. Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that any information submitted to Canada in response to this RFI may be used by Canada in the finalization of a competitive RFP. However, the Government is not bound to accept any Expression of Interest or to consider it further in any associated documents such as an RFP.

All industry consultations will be documented and this information is subject to the *Access to Information Act*. Respondents should identify any submitted information that is to be considered as either company confidential or proprietary. Canada will not reveal any designated confidential or proprietary information to public and/or third parties, except for independent consultant(s) which may participate in RFI response review.

7. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Registration for participation to this round of Industry Consultative Process is required on/or before March 19, 2018.

To register, please complete, sign and return the Engagement Participation Form along with its Appendices, attached at Annex “B”, to the Procurement Authority identified in Section 13.

All Respondents, including those that previously participated in this RFI, are requested to return completed and signed Annex B to the Procurement Authority.

Participation at this consultative process is not required in order to submit a response to the RFI nor any follow-on RFP.

8. DELIVERY ADDRESS AND RESPONSE FORMAT

Responses to the RFI questions must be sent to the Procurement Authority, identified in Section 13 below, by E-mail. It is the sole responsibility of Respondents to confirm whether their RFI Responses have been successfully received by Canada.

The electronic file formats of the responses must be in either Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF)™ or in a file format that is readable by the 2003 Microsoft Office™ Suite.

Provision of an electronic version is preferred in order to facilitate the distribution of the RFI responses to the NRCan project team.

9. CLOSING DATE

RFI Responses should be submitted on or before March 26, 2018.

The closing date of this Industry Consultative Process is April 12, 2018, 17h00 EDT. RFI Responses received beyond this date may not be given further consideration.

10. RESPONSE EVALUATION AND INDUSTRY FOLLOW-UP

Following receipt of responses to this RFI, Canada will review responses received for the purpose of refining its way forward on this requirement. In order to maintain awareness within the bidding community for this requirement, PSPC will publish a RFI findings document.

The RFI findings document may include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- the number of firms that participated
- the identification of firms submitting responses
- a collective assessment on the responses received including anticipated changes, if any. Proprietary information will not be disclosed.
- an estimated schedule for any resulting procurement, as applicable; and,
- next steps.

The RFI findings document will be distributed to Respondents that submitted responses to this RFI only. It is anticipated that the RFI findings document will be distributed within three (3) months after the closing date of the RFI.

11. ENQUIRIES

All enquiries and other communications related to this RFI must be directed exclusively to the Procurement Authority identified in Section 13. Respondents that intend on responding to this RFI are asked to advise the Procurement Authority of their intention to respond, in order that they may be notified of any changes to the notice on the PSPC Buy and Sell website, which may occur during the posting period.

12. LANGUAGE

Responses and consultation meetings are to be provided / held in one of the two Official Languages of Canada (English or French).

13. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY

All enquiries and other communications related to this RFI must be directed to the Procurement Authority as follows:

Adriana Crncan

Space, Innovation and Informatics Projects Directorate
Services and Technology Acquisitions Management Sector
Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC)
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière
10 Wellington, 4th floor
Gatineau, Quebec
K1A 0S5

Telephone: 613-858-9127

E-mail address: adriana.crncan@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

ANNEX “A” – INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS

The issuance of this RFI does not bind Canada legally or otherwise, to enter into any agreement or to accept any suggestions from Respondents. Be advised that Canada reserves the right to accept or reject any or all comments received.

QUESTIONS TO INDUSTRY

| 1.0 General Questions | |
|--|--|
| Q1.1 | Are you presently able to meet all the mandatory requirements described in the Draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2? If not, please indicate which requirements you cannot currently meet and advise what alternatives can be offered by industry. If you anticipate having the capacity to meet these requirements at a future date, please indicate when. |
| A1.1 | |
| Q1.2 | Refer to section 3.3.2.2 Coordinate Systems and Reference Systems, of the Draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2. Canada recognizes that web Mercator projection is widely used in Web Mapping Services (WMS), but the latter projection is causing major distortions for the latitudes where Canada is located (>45°). Is industry currently able to offer a WMS with the Lambert Conic Conformal projection which is better suited to Canada’s latitude and what would be a rough order magnitude price for such a requirement? |
| A1.2 | |
| Q1.3 | Canada is planning to investigate the use of deep learning approaches to extract information from the Standard Imagery. In order to be efficient, deep learning approaches need training datasets consisting of thousands of small images. Canada would like to know if industry is willing to allow Canada to release for public use these small images extracted from the Standard Imagery. These images would only be used in the context of deep learning training, would not be contiguous, would be small in size and would not be geo-referenced. If industry cannot meet this requirement, industry is invited to propose alternative solutions. |
| A1.3 | |
| Q1.4 | Reference: section 5.2 WMS User Accounts, of the Draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2. Canada is requesting an unlimited number of WMS-User accounts to use the WMS. Is Industry able to meet this requirement? Is a WMS-User account is needed to access the WMS? If so, what is the standard industry practice to manage the WMS-User accounts? |
| A1.4 | |
| 2.0 Procurement Strategy and Evaluation Criteria | |
| Q2.1 | Does your organization have any comments on the draft Evaluation Criteria? |
| A2.1 | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Q2.2 | Please provide any additional information that would be of interest to Canada regarding a future procurement. |
| A2.2 | |
| 3.0 Basis of Payment | |
| Q3.1 | Does your organization have any comments on the draft Basis of Payment and Method of Payment? Is it in line with the standard industry practice? |
| A3.1 | |
| Q3.2 | What change(s) can you recommend to reduce the overall costs of this requirement? |
| A3.2 | |
| Q3.3 | For the National Coverage Imagery, of the Draft Statement of Work for Industry Comments – Revision 2. Could you provide (confidential and non-binding) cost estimates for a 3-years contract for the National Coverage Imagery? One price for Government of Canada, one price for each of the 13 provinces and territories and one price for each of the 13 provinces and territories including the right to share the Standard Imagery with the municipalities (27 cost estimates in total). If you are presently unable to provide this level of detail, please provide the following three cost estimates: one for the Federal Government; one for the provinces and territories; and, one for the provinces and territories including the right to share the Standard Imagery with the municipalities. Canada anticipates that the budget for this procurement may be limited, and this information from industry is required for planning purposes. |
| A3.3 | |

APPENDIX A to Annex A

Map of High Priority Areas Across Canada



High priority areas are shown in orange (Region A) and low priority areas are shown in grey (Region B).

ANNEX “B” – ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPATION FORM (1/3)

In order to participate to this Industry Consultative Process, Respondents must complete, sign and return the following Participation Form, along with its appendices to the Procurement Authority identified in section 13, above.

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Participant Name | Company Name |
| | |
| Participant Title | Business Address |
| | |
| Preferred language of communication English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> | |

By signing this document, the individual represents that he/she has full authority to bind the company identified below and that the individual and the company agree to be bound by all the terms and conditions contained in Annex “B” – Engagement Participation Form and its appendices.

Signature
(I have the authority to bind the Company)

Date

Name (Print)

Title or Position (Print)

Appendix 1 to Annex "B" – Engagement Participation Form (2/3)

Rules of Engagement

An overriding principle of the Industry Consultative Process is that it be conducted with the utmost of fairness and equity between all parties. No one entity shall not receive nor be perceived to have received any unusual or unfair advantage over the others.

The Industry Consultative Process begins following the publication on Buy and Sell website of the Notice for RFI and concludes with the dissemination of the RFI Findings Document to participant or on the date indicated on the Buy and Sell website, whichever occurs first. The Industry Engagement Process will consist of the following events:

- Buy and Sell Posting of the Notice for RFI Package Release;
- One-on-One Industry Meetings;
- Submission of RFI Responses;
- Post RFI Response Submission Meetings, if required; and,
- Release of RFI Findings Report to participants only.

At any point within the Industry Consultative Process, the above listed Industry Engagement events or their scheduling may change. Except for changes brought on an unforeseen events or adverse weather, a minimum five (5) calendar day notice will be provided to participants of any planned change.

Following the release of the Request for Information, all written information provided by Canada with respect to this industry engagement will be provided only to those entities that have signed the Rules of Engagement Terms and Conditions identified below.

Rules of Engagement Terms and Conditions

- a) Participants wishing to participate in this Industry Consultative Process, as well as to attend One-on-One Industry Meetings must register on/or before the date indicated at Section 7. - Registration Requirements;
- b) Participants are expected to discuss their views concerning the requirement and to provide positive resolutions to the issues in question. Each participant shall be provided equal opportunity for information exchange, and in the submission of questions;
- c) Participants will NOT reveal or discuss any information to the MEDIA/NEWSPAPERS regarding this requirement during this Industry Consultative Process. If participants receive a question from the Media, participants are to direct the Media to contact the PWGSC Media Relations Office at 819-956-2313;
- d) Participants are to direct inquiries and comments only to authorized representatives of Canada, as directed in notices given by the Procurement Authority from time to time. Any communication to unauthorized representatives of Canada may be subject to full disclosure by Canada to all Participants;
- e) The number of persons from any one Participant (company, consortia, bidding team, joint venture) is limited to four (4) persons for the One-on-One Industry Meetings and/or the Post RFI Response Submission Meetings;
- f) Media cannot participate in this Industry Consultative Process;
- g) Canada is not obligated to issue any RFP, or to negotiate any contract for any of the requirements or phases to be identified during this Industry Consultative Process;
- h) Throughout the entire Industry Consultative Process, all questions from industry, exchanges of information and all of the industry feedback shall be provided in writing to the contracting Authority. In accordance with and subject to the *Access to Information Act, R.S., 1985, c. A-1*, and any other legislative or legal requirement, all

information which is provided by a Participant and which is clearly marked as "Proprietary" will not be released or disclosed;

- i) Proceedings from the One-on-One Industry Meetings will be recorded. Questions and answers raised from these meetings may be summarized and provided to all Participants. In order to establish better communications between Canada and Industry, and also to increase the accuracy of information gathered during the One-on-One Industry Meetings, Respondents will be requested to submit the list of questions posed during the meeting to the Procurement Officer no later than five (5) business days after the meeting;
- j) If Canada does release an RFP, the terms and conditions will be subject to Canada's absolute discretion;
- k) Canada will not reimburse any Participant for any cost incurred in participating in this Industry Consultative Process;
- l) Participation in this Industry Consultative Process will not be a mandatory requirement for any subsequent RFP. An entity will not be precluded from submitting a proposal under any subsequent RFP on account of they not being a Participant;
- m) Failure of an entity to agree to and sign the Engagement Participation Form will result in exclusion of the entity from participation in the Industry Consultative Process, exclusion of the entity from participation in the One-on-One Industry Meetings, as well as exclusion of the entity from the provision of updates to the RFI documentation;
- n) A dispute resolution process to manage impasses throughout this Industry Consultative Process must be adhered to in accordance with Appendix 2 of Annex "B" – Engagement Participation Form, below. All requests to use the dispute resolution process must be directed to the Procurement Authority who will make the appropriate arrangements;
- o) At any point within this process, a Participant may provide notice to the Procurement Authority that they no longer wish to participate in the Industry Consultative Process. Upon the Procurement Authority's receipt of such notice, the Participant will not be scheduled for participation in any future event(s);
- p) If required, the Post RFI Response Submission Meetings will be held with only those Participants that have submitted a complete response to the RFI;
- q) Participation in the One-on-One Industry Meetings, and, or the Post RFI Response Submission Meetings is conditional on the Participant's formal acceptance of all of the above Rules of Engagement. This Engagement Participation Form must be signed by a duly authorized officer of the Participant in this respect; and,
- r) The RFI Findings Report will be distributed to all Participants including any which may have previously indicated that they no longer wish to participate in the Industry Consultative Process.

Signature
(I have the authority to bind the Company)

Date

Name (Print)

Title or Position (Print)

Company (Print)

Appendix 2 to Annex "B" – Engagement Participation Form (3/3)

Dispute Resolution Process

1. By informal discussion and good faith negotiation, each of the parties shall make all reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in any way connected with this Industry Engagement Process.
2. Any dispute between the Parties of any nature arising out of or in connection with this Industry Engagement Process shall be resolved by the following process:
 - a) Any such dispute shall first be referred to the Participant's Manager and the PWGSC Manager managing the Industry Engagement Process. The parties will have 3 Business Days in which to resolve the dispute.
 - b) In the event the representatives of the Parties specified Article 2.a. above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participant's Senior Representative responsible for this project and the PWGSC Senior Director of the Division responsible for managing the Industry Engagement Process. The parties will have 3 Business Days to resolve the dispute.
 - c) In the event the representatives of the Parties specified in Article 2.b above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participant's Senior Representative responsible for this project and the PWGSC Director General, who will have 3 Business Days to resolve the dispute.
 - d) In the event the representatives of the Parties specified in Article 2.c. above are unable to resolve the dispute, it shall be referred to the Participant's CEO and the PWGSC Assistant Deputy Minister, Acquisitions Branch who will have 5 Business Days to resolve the dispute.
 - e) In the event the representatives of the Parties specified in Article 2.d. above are unable to resolve the dispute, the Procurement Authority shall within 5 Business Days render a written decision which decision shall include a detailed description of the dispute and the reasons supporting the Procurement Authority's decision. The Procurement Authority shall deliver a signed copy thereof to the Participant.

Signature
(I have the authority to bind the Company)

Date

Name (Print)

Title or Position (Print)

Company (Print)