

## Question 1

Will Environment Canada reconsider the M6 requirement for a valid DOS with approved Protected B requirement, which was not required in 2012 when this RFP was originally issued?

- Current EC / N° SAP 5000035281 RFP Mandatory Criteria M6:
  - The Bidder must, hold a valid Designated Organization Screening (DOS) with approved Document Safeguarding at the level of PROTECTED B, issued by the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate, Public Works and Government Services Canada at bid closing. A copy of the certificate obtained from PSPC must be provided before contract award.
- Previous RFP Solicitation No. K2AA1-12-0021, Reference No. 257798 VOC Emission Estimations and Cost-Benefit Analysis from the Canadian Printing and Inks Industry [http://www.merx.com/English/SUPPLIER\\_Menu.asp?WCE=Show&TAB=1&PORTAL=M&ERX&State=7&id=257798&src=osr&FED\\_ONLY=0&ACTION=&rowcount=&lastpage=&MoreResults=&PUBSORT=2&CLOSESORT=0&IS\\_SME=Y&hcode=jlKzS6dvhCz5GJbivpulwQ%3d%3d](http://www.merx.com/English/SUPPLIER_Menu.asp?WCE=Show&TAB=1&PORTAL=M&ERX&State=7&id=257798&src=osr&FED_ONLY=0&ACTION=&rowcount=&lastpage=&MoreResults=&PUBSORT=2&CLOSESORT=0&IS_SME=Y&hcode=jlKzS6dvhCz5GJbivpulwQ%3d%3d)
  - Security clearance required - The bidding company as well as the Project Manager must hold a security accreditation to the level of enhanced reliability at the time of response to this request for proposal. The project manager should also ensure that employees who will have access to protected information must also hold a valid security accreditation to the level of enhanced reliability. All clearances must be maintained for the duration of the contract. In order to demonstrate this requirement, the members must be listed, along with their clearance level, their security clearance number, when the clearance was received and when it expires.

The security requirement for the contractor's site or premises at the level of DOS Protected B seems excessive for this engagement especially as this was not required the last time the project was issued. Based on the scope of work, the contractor will be working primarily with industry emissions information (provided by industry through a voluntary survey) and generally accessible industry statistics or macroeconomic data. Much data for example can be accessed through access for information requests for approvals, or is available online in some format through websites such as NPRI, the Ontario EBR Registry, etc. Each of the team members will have an enhanced reliability security clearance which will obligate them to treat all sensitive information accordingly and treat all business-related information collected as confidential.

Given the complexity of the process of obtaining Protected B security clearance and the time involved in that, this requirement will effectively preclude smaller qualified potential suppliers from competing in this solicitation. Will Environment Canada consider removing this requirement?

## Answer 1

The Government of Canada is committed to protecting the information of individuals and/or businesses collected in the context of various studies associated directly or indirectly with the government. Whether it is information gathered through voluntary surveys or online information with public access, the Government of Canada must ensure that this information is handled and managed with the appropriate security level. Following the above, requirements included in attachment 1 to part 4 (Mandatory criteria M6) of the Bid Solicitation EC/N° SAP 5000035281 remain valid.