ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

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 Requirements

Determine the feasibility of classical biological control for mitigation of beech leaf mining weevil, *Orchestes fagi,* in Canada

Background: The beech leaf-mining weevil is an invasive pest from Europe that has been accidentally introduced to Nova Scotia where it has spread and caused mortality of American beech in urban areas as well as in natural forests. Parasitism of the beech weevil appears to be extremely low in Nova Scotia, and weevil populations have remained high year-after-year since its discovery in 2012. Classical biological control, i.e., the introduction of natural enemies from the pest's native range in Europe, may be a viable long-term strategy for reducing weevil population levels and associated damage in Canada. However, the first step in determining the feasibility of using classical biological control is to characterize the species of parasitoids that attack *O. fagi* in Europe and determine their degree of host specificity. Generalist parasitoids are not suitable candidates for classical biological control because of potential harm to non-target species in the country of introduction.

Description of services: Determine the species complex parasitizing *Orchestes fagi* in Europe, their known hosts, and degree of host specificity and phenology by surveying the literature and by collecting *O. fagi* larvae and pupae from sites in Switzerland and France, and rearing out parasitoid species. Assess the levels of parasitism and life stages of the weevil in each collection. Identify the species of parasitoids reared or dissected from *O. fagi* mines using morphological and/or molecular methods. Synthesize this information to assess and determine which parasitoid species, if any, would be suitable for classical biological control of *Orchestes fagi* in Canada.

Deliverables:

1. **Determine the parasitoid complex of *Orchestes fagi* in Europe:**
2. **Report listing parasitoids of *O. fagi* and sympatric leaf miners, and assessment of specificity of parasitoids**

3. **Work plan for 2019-20 based on results from 2018-19**

   (Note: The work required in year 2 will likely be similar to that described in deliverables 1 and 2 above but modified as necessary based knowledge gained in year 1. A final report with results and recommendations in year 2 would replace deliverable 3 from year 1 (work plan).

The department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has a requirement to develop tools and strategies to mitigate the impact of invasive forest insects on Canada's forests.

3. Criteria for Assessment of the Statement of Capabilities

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

Demonstrated Experience: 10+ years of experience conducting research on the ecology, impact, phenology, and host specificity of parasitoids of forest insects, (including leaf miners), and the practice of classical biological control of forest insect pests. Extensive experience in assessing parasitoid species for suitability as classical biological control agents, and the likelihood of their success. Evidence may include scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals and scientific reports on biological control projects delivered to clients.

Direct experience working with the European beech leaf-mining weevil, *Orchestes fagi.*

Recent experience within the last 10 years in conducting at least two projects of similar size, scope and complexity.

Knowledge and understanding: of ecology and population dynamics of forest insect pests and their natural enemies; leaf-mining insects of broadleaf trees in Europe, including the beech leaf-mining weevil *Orchestes fagi.* Knowledge of insect taxonomy, and proper use of keys for determining species of leaf mining insects and their parasitoids.

Academic qualifications: Must possess a PhD from a recognized university in the field of biological sciences, with a specialization in entomology

4. Trade Agreements, NA

5. Set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business, NA
.

6. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement(s)

This procurement is not subject to a CLCA.

7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

We intend to deal directly with the supplier mentioned in section 13 below as it is the only known supplier that meets the mandatory criteria set out in section 3 above.

Should Canada receive a statement of capabilities from a supplier that contains sufficient information to indicate that it meets the requirements set forth in this ACAN, a competitive process will be triggered with a technical and financial evaluation methodology of the bids proposed by the potential bidders

8. Exception to the Government Contracts Regulations

The following exception(s) to the Government Contracts Regulations is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection: 6(d) – “only one person is capable of performing the work).

The identified provider, **Dr. Marc Kenis Head, Risk Analysis and Invasion Ecology at CABI** is the only one able to meet all of the criteria identified in paragraph 3 above.

9. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

The procurement is not subject to any trade agreements

10. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Contractor.

11. Contract Period

The initial contract period will be from date of award to March 31, 2019.

Optional Service, if required

The contract period may be extended from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020

12. Estimated Cost

The estimated value of the initial contract is $30,000.00 CAD inclusive

Optional Service, if required

The estimated value of the optional services is $30,000.00 CAD inclusive

13. Name and Address of the Proposed Contractor

Dr. Marc Kenis
Head, Risk Analysis and Invasion Ecology
CABI
Rue des Grillons 1
CH-2800 Delémont
Switzerland

14. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services/goods described herein, may submit a Statement of Capabilities in writing, preferably by e-mail, to the contact person identified in this Notice on or before the closing date and time of this Notice. The Statement of Capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

15. Closing Date

The closing date for a submission of a Statement of Capabilities is July 10, 2018 at 14:00 Eastern Standard Time).

16. Contract Authority

Julia Pace
1 Challenger Drive
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2
Phone: 902-426-7279

Julia.pace@canada.ca