

Advance Contract Award Notice
Communications Research Centre

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

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.

PROJECT TITLE: Engineered Surface Fabrication

Definition of Requirements

The Communications Research Centre (CRC), a branch of the Spectrum and Telecommunications Sector (STS), Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), has a requirement for a contract to deliver Engineered Surface Fabrication. The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to the pre-selected supplier:

GGI Solutions
1455, 32nd Avenue, Lachine
QC H8T 3J1

BACKGROUND:

Wireless spectrum is a limited resource and the demand for spectrum is rapidly increasing. Breaking the Frequency Barrier (BFB) is a CRC research program focusing on exploring the potential frequency band which can be used for 5G and beyond wireless communications. The goal of this research program is to devise efficient strategies to exploit unused higher frequency bands.

Toward this goal, CRC has been strongly involved in the development of an innovative technology called Engineered Surfaces (ES) in the framework of the BFB program to showcase its capabilities through deployment of ES's for impactful demonstrations. ES consists of large, thin, conformal sheets with engineered conductive patterns imprinted on them to enhance wireless communication by changing the propagation environment that is tantamount to higher spectrum efficiency.

Innovative ES topologies will be conceived, designed, and electronic files will be generated accordingly that are to be submitted to printing facilities. The electronic files contain the layout that is intended to be used for the pattern of the ES. Specialized functional inks will be used by the printing facilities to fabricate ES prototypes with novel properties and functions.

Noting the emerging nature of printable electronics technology, there is a potentially substantial amount of research and development required by the manufacturer to refine their printing process in order to produce desired ES prototypes that meet design specifications/requirements.

CRC is henceforth seeking establishment of an ACAN to streamline fabrication of ES prototypes for the BFB research program.

OBJECTIVE:

CRC is seeking to establish a contract by which its research program can utilize industry leading experts for ES fabrication capabilities. This will enable the CRC to accelerate its research priority in spectrum management.

SCOPE OF WORK:

For each custom designed ES, the manufactures/vendors must process the prototype to meet design specifications. The manufacturer needs to meet the technical requirement listed in the “Product requirements” in the “Essential Qualifications” following. Due to the research nature, the design of the ES might be different from time to time, thus, the manufacturing of each design would be different. The quantity of ES that needs to be printed will vary with each order and will be communicated to the manufacturer at the same time the design is submitted.

Criteria for Assessment of the Statement of Capabilities

ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:

To fulfill the requirements of the contract, the manufacturers/vendors must meet the following requirements on the product:

Table 1: Product requirements

Category	Product requirement	Metric
1.A	Usable printable area	a. For multiple sheets: minimum 55.88 cm x minimum 81.28 cm (22" x 32") per sheet b. For roll: minimum dimension (roll width) of 30.48 cm (12"); minimum length of 30 m
1.B	Sheet thickness	0.127 mm (5 mils) or 0.254 mm (10 mils)
1.C	Sheet dielectric material (substrates)	Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET)
1.D	Trace conductivity	high conductivity, greater than 1×10^5 S/m (Siemens per metre) – Processed measured
1.E	Feature-size resolution (this resolution must be respected for all lines printed in the horizontal, vertical or diagonal directions over the entire surface of the substrate) –CRC to specify, depending on the requirements, for each order.	a. For thin traces: • Line width: 75 micrometres $\pm 5\%$ • Gap between lines: 75 micrometres $\pm 5\%$ • Ink thickness (height) range: minimum 5 micrometres. b. For thick traces: • Line width: 150 micrometres $\pm 5\%$

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gap between lines: 150 micrometres $\pm 5\%$ • Ink thickness (height) range: minimum 20 micrometres.
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TIMING AND DELIVERABLES:

Capability to produce small prototype quantities that vary between 20 and 1000 sheets for multiple sheets or minimum roll length of 30 meters with a turnaround time of less than 30 business days from the reception of the purchase order.

VENDOR EXPERIENCE

The vendor must be established in the field of printable electronics with a minimum of 5 years of experience of printing conductive inks on flexible substrates.

GOVERNMENT Contracts REGULATIONS EXCEPTION:

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6 (d) -

d. “only one supplier person or firm is capable of performing the work.”

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRE-SELECTED SUPPLIER:

GGI Solutions is the only supplier that meets the Product Requirements.

Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

Trade agreement(s) are not applicable for this procurement.

Ownership of Intellectual Property

The design layouts supplied by CRC to the vendor remain the intellectual property of CRC. The layouts (CAD files, photos, etc.) and specification requirements cannot be disclosed without the written consent of the proper authority at CRC. For detailed “License to Intellectual Property Rights in Background Information” and “Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights in Foreground Information” follow the Interpretation of Public Works and Government Service Canada’s policy and guidelines. (link: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual/4/4007/3#ownership-of-intellectual-property-rights>)

Period of the proposed Contract

The proposed contract will be from contract award until August 31, 2019.

Cost estimate of the proposed Contract

The estimated value of the contract is up to \$100,000 CDN, including all applicable taxes.

Proposed Contractor

GGI Solutions

1455, 32nd Avenue, Lachine
QC H8T 3J1

Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this notice on or before the closing date of this notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

Responses received on or before the closing date will be considered solely for the purpose of deciding whether or not to conduct a competitive procurement. Information provided will be used by the Crown for technical evaluation purposes only and will not be construed as a proposal. The submitted written response must provide sufficient evidence (e.g. specifications, technical data, drawings or any other proof) that clearly demonstrates that the proposed product is capable of fulfilling this requirement. Suppliers that have submitted a response will be notified in writing of CRC's decision whether to continue with the aforementioned procurement or to compete the requirement.

Closing date for the submission of a Statement of Capabilities

September 4, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Anne Nino
Manager Procurement and Contracting (CRC)
Contracts & Material Management, Corporate Management Sector
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada | Government of Canada
3701 Carling Avenue | Building 2D | Room 138 | Ottawa, ON K2H 8S2
Anne.Nino@canada.ca | Tel: 613-998-1922

All responses or inquiries are to be submitted to the Procurement officer identified above. The PSPC file number, the procurement officer's name and the closing date of the ACAN must appear on the outside of the envelope in block letters or by email ic.crc-procurement.ic@canada.ca addressed to the Procurement officer identified above. The PSPC file number and the closing date of the ACAN must appear in the email.

Any responses submitted to any e-mail address other than that stated herein will not be considered. The CRC will not assume responsibility for misdirected emails.

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement. Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements. Proof/samples must include specific evidence that clearly shows that the criteria are met.

Criteria for assessment are the "Table 1: Product Requirements" under "ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS".

Potential suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the Contracting Authority identified in this Notice on or before the closing date of this Notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

If a potential supplier submits a statement of capabilities during the posting period that meets the requirements set out in this ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering system or through traditional means in order to award the contract. If no other supplier submits on or before the closing date a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in this ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier.