

## QUESTIONS FROM THE INFO SESSION

Q35. What is the composition of the selection panel?

A35. The selection panel will comprise of a mix of people include specialists in regulatory policy, AI and machine learning. It will draw from a number of departments and agencies including TBS, Department of Justice, regulators and other federal departments.

Q36. Does participating through this RFP process preclude participation in future AI initiatives launched by the Government of Canada? For example, what is the relationship between this process and the RFI process recently launched by PSPC?

A36. Participation in this RFP process does not preclude participation in other AI initiatives. The GoC is a target rich environment for AI and departments can procure their AI needs with the help of PSPC. The result of this RFP process is a vendor list from which departments can draw upon and pursue contracting.

In June, PSPC launched a RFI to seek industry feedback into the development of a procurement mechanism for AI services, solutions and products available for all federal departments. For more information on the RFI, please go to buyandsell: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-EE-017-33657>

Q37. If a vendor doesn't not qualify on the vendor list created through this RFP process, does the vendor miss out on opportunities that may be offered to vendors that are on the list? Conversely, does qualifying on the vendor list create a competitive advantage in the future? Will the vendor list be made publicly available?

A37. Vendors placed on the list as a result of the RFP will be promoted by CSPA to other departments. As such, vendors who qualify may be approached more often by departments than those who are not placed on the list. The list will be made available publicly.

Q38. Will there be subsequent opportunities to be added to the vendor list after this RFP process? For example, as technology continues to advance and new organizations potentially enter the space, organizations and the government could be limiting themselves.

A38. The intent of this RFP is short term as the PSPC process is the envisioned longer term solution. At this time, a second round is not contemplated. However, the conversation could be revisited in the future based on feedback.

Q39. What is the relationship and/or linkage between the PSPC process and this one?

A39. This RFP process is narrow in its application of AI to regulations and is short term. The PSPC process is broad in its application of all AI services, solutions and products and is longer term. Currently the PSPC process is at the RFI stage and seeking vendor feedback e.g. terms and conditions, IP rights, which will guide the development of a procurement vehicle. For more information on the RFI, please go to buyandsell: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-EE-017-33657>

Any lessons learned and insights gained from the current CSPA process will help inform the PSPC process, and where possible, pathways from the CSPA process to the PSPC process. CSPA is continuing to work with PSPC as these processes continue to unfold.

Q40. Does CSPS anticipate using this RFP to procure services? Is there a planned budget?

A40. The CSPS may choose to invest depending on the proof of concepts highlighted at the showcase event.

Q41. Does it remain the case that the subsequent vendor engagement will be made through TBIPS and SBIBS?

A41. As a result of this RFP process, a qualified list will be made available for government departments that wish to pursue artificial intelligence projects, including advanced analytics and machine learning. While no procurement mechanism (e.g. standing offer/supply arrangement) will be put in place as a result of this RFP, departments could use the vendor list to undertake their procurement requirements under their own departmental delegation which could include undertaking a limited tender process should the dollar value of the requirement not exceed trade agreement thresholds. Pricing will be determined when the department engages with the supplier on the contract. The scope of future work may be inclusive of all AI and ML work.

Q42. How best would you best define AI? What are the most salient aspects that could help you?

A42. As alluded to in the RFP, AI is meant to be interpreted broadly in this RFP, including data analysis, machine learning, and advanced analytics. The intention is to not limit the approaches and interpretation of AI.

Q43. We are considering a federal non-profit as our vehicle for bid submission - are there any implications concerning Qualified Vendor / Procurement Business Number and SRI requirements?

A43. A Procurement Business Number is not necessary to participate in the CSPS RFP process since the School will only be promoting your services but we are strongly recommending to take the necessary steps to obtain one in order to be ready to provide your services when departments approach you for your services.

Q44. Is this is a Build in Canada Innovation initiative? It sounds like it. How many winners will there be?

A44. This is not a Build in Canada Innovation initiative. The resulting list will be non-exclusive, and it is possible all participants could qualify if they meet the requirements indicated in the RFP.

Q45. Are you still trying to get a deadline to the pre-budget prepared?

A45. The insights from the proof of concepts will continue to inform the Budget 2019 process. However, CSPS is also interested in looking for projects which hold promise which are longer term and are not required to be delivered prior to the next federal budget.

Q46. What is the scope of the RFP? Are we looking at policy development, implementation, consolidation, alternative views? The whole spectrum or implementation?

A46. There are already existing AI approaches to help regulators in implementation, for example, in decision making or risk assessment. However, there is a gap in regulatory policy development, for example, reviewing regulations and comparing them to other jurisdictions.

Q47. Has there been other preliminary studies or work which led to the preparation of this RFP that could be made available?

A47. See the resources listed in the RFI on buyandsell: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-18-00828244>

Q48. What outreach has been done to AI community?

A48. Prior to the RFP, a RFI was launched on buyandsell which included holding an industry day in Toronto and Montreal in May 2018.

Q49. What has been the uptake by small and medium enterprises?

A49. There has been interest from small and medium enterprises. While the no monetary prize may be a disincentive for some small and medium enterprises, the promotional aspect is also an incentive.

Q50. What are the reasons behind the two extensions of the due date for the proposal?

A50. The first extension to August 31 was to fix an administrative error on buyandsell. The second extension to September 14 was to respond to feedback from vendors requesting additional time to prepare their demonstration projects.

Q51. It is being asked to have the web service be available for one year. Would that requirement apply only to the successful proponents?

A51. Yes.

Q52. Who will use the tool/outputs from the proposal and how will the tool will be used in the day to day?

A52. Tools would be used by different departments according to their needs.

Q53. Who will be the audience for the showcase event? E.g. policy experts, TBS/CSPS employees, regulation document experts, etc.

A53. The showcase event will be targeted to senior management in the federal government, particularly regulators, who are looking for AI solutions.

Q54. What level of understanding of Text Analytics, Machine Learning, "AI", will the audience have?

A54. The audience will have a mix level of understanding of "AI" methods.

Q55. The point in time data appear to go back as far as 2006. Are there dates available indicating when the regulation was first passed or adopted in order to calculate a regulation age?

A55. For regulations with a CRC instrument number, their start date would be December 31, 1977 as per the Consolidated Regulations of Canada 1978 publication. For regulations with a SOR instrument number, their start date would be the date in the RegistrationDate tag. For regulations with a SI instrument number, the start date would be the date in the RegulationMakerOrder tag. However, in cases where this tag does not exist it would be the RegistrationDate or a date referenced in the Order tag.