



**RETURN BIDS TO:**

**RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À:**

**Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des soumissions -  
TPSGC**

11 Laurier St./ 11 rue, Laurier  
Place du Portage, Phase III  
Core 0B2 / Noyau 0B2  
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5  
Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

**SOLICITATION AMENDMENT  
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION**

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**

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS A SECURITY  
REQUIREMENT / DOCUMENT CONTIENT DES  
EXIGENCES RELATIVES À LA SÉCURITÉ

**Vendor/Firm Name and Address**

Raison sociale et adresse du  
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

**Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution**

Scientific, Medical and Photographic Division /  
Division de l'équipement scientifique, des produits  
photographiques et pharmaceutiques  
11 Laurier St./ 11 rue, Laurier  
6A2, Place du Portage  
Gatineau, Québec K1A 0S5

<b>Title - Sujet</b> Microbiological Water Quality Monit	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> HT156-182421/A	<b>Amendment No. - N° modif.</b> 001
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> HT156-182421	<b>Date</b> 2018-11-21
<b>GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG</b> PW-\$\$PV-915-75622	
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> pv915.HT156-182421	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> <b>on - le 2018-11-30</b>	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> MacCuaig, Shannon	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> pv915
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (613) 697-0956 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> ( ) -
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b>	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

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

**This amendment 001 is raised to answer questions from industry and revise the RFP as follows:**

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**Question 1a: Requesting an Extension to the Bid Closing**

This to request an extension to the Solicitation Closes date to 2:00 PM on the 12 December 2018.

Due to the complexity of the requirement and the various requests for clarification and enhancements listed below, it requested that we be provided an extension as we would like to submit a comprehensive, technically compliant and financially viable offer for the fulfillment of this requirement.

**Question 1b:**

We need some more time to complete your required documentation. Can you extend this tender until Friday, November 30?

**Answer 1:**

Canada agrees to extend the bid closing date to 2:00pm on 30 November 2018.

**Question 2: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #1**

Under financial evaluation (4.1.2) and Financial Offer Section II (3.2 (b)), the requirement includes the option to purchase additional deliveries as and when requested basis for up to 3 additional 1-year periods.

As there may be optional purchases of additional deliveries up to 3 additional 1-year periods, will these requirements be assessed as part of the Total Aggregated Bid Price? Also, what is the total budget estimate for this entire project including extensions?

**Answer 2:**

As indicated in the RFSO in section A.1, the 3 additional 1-year periods will be for services on an and when basis and therefore the additional equipment, supplies and services will be per unit of issue as outlined in Table 1.

The estimated expenditure is up to \$5,000,000 CAD over the 5-year SO period.

**Question 3: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #2**

Due to the large geographic area and isolated nature of locations for the supply of the 30 units, do you have a deployment plan or concept for distribution and operation which estimates the deliveries by regional location where these units are to operate?

Note: This will assist in determining travel, accommodation and associated administrative costs associated with this contract.

**Answer 3:**

There is currently no predetermined delivery schedule. Deployment and delivery schedules will be determined by the respective regional offices (Annex E) once a successful contractor has been selected.

**Question 4: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #3**

Annex B, Table 1, Item 1

The requirement refers to "Microbiological water quality monitoring system, including initial testing cartridges and supplies".

Will there be a line item in any resulting contract which will allow users to order additional quantities of test kits, cartridges and supplies at an agreed upon pricing which will be required for additional testing?

**Answer 4:**

Yes, the resulting contract will have provisions for ordering additional test cartridges and supplies.

**Question 5: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #4**

Annex B, Table 1, Item 4 On-site Service

It is understood that the Standing Offer will allow for up to 30 On-site Service visits for the initial 2-year period.

Would you consider the Unit of Issue for the item be changed to a per Visit basis in lieu of per diem basis and travel and accommodation costs be billed separately based on the location?

**Answer 5:**

No, please present unit on-site service as a per diem basis as requested in the RFSO.

**Question 6: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #5**

Annex B, Table 1, Item 5 - Technical support for the machines via hotline and email

Would you consider the Unit of Issue for the item be changed to a monthly fee basis?

**Answer 6:**

No, please present unit of technical support for machines via hotline and email as a per diem basis as requested in the RFSO.

## Question 7: Request for Clarification/Enhancement #6

### At **"A.2 MANDATORY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS (page 18 of 29):**

The Contractor must fulfill the following tasks on an as-and-when-needed basis."

#### 7a) Clarification Request:

- **"The test kits and associated supplies and equipment must withstand the impacts of rough handling and exposure to Canada`s seasonal variable hot and cold temperatures."**

Can you explain what is meant by rough handling (e.g., related to the safe and secure handling of equipment) and what are the temperature fluctuations for which to equipment is to be operating (e.g., what are the values plus or minus 40°C. Celsius etc.?).

#### **Answer 7a):**

Rough handling refers to agitation, vibration and mild impact that is normally associated with shipping by air or road on gravel or unpaved roads. Exposure to Canada's variable hot and cold temperatures is - 30 degrees C to 40 degrees C. Equipment, test kits and supplies must be capable of sustaining exposure to the rough handling and temperatures described above without impact to its ability to operate.

#### 7b) Request for Change:

- **"Must have U.S.EPA certified/approved methodology for Total Coliforms and E. coli."**

It is recommended that the aforementioned mandatory requirement be removed as the EPA will only validate the claims and it does not certify methodologies nor are there any ISO or any other standards which cover these methodologies.

#### **Answer 7b):**

The EPA does approve methodology for the detection of E.coli and Total Coliforms in the approved methods under the Clean Water Act and the Revised Total Coliform Rule. The mandatory requirement will remain as worded.

See the USEPA website for lists of approved methods:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/rtrcr\\_approved\\_methods.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/rtrcr_approved_methods.pdf)

#### 7c) Clarification Request:

- **"Test kits and equipment must have the ability to be used for presence/absence testing and/or quantification of Total Coliforms and E-Coli in drinking water samples."**

Please provide the desired processes required to satisfy this task (e.g. remote operating?).

**Answer 7c):**

The process involved for presence/absence and quantification will depend on the approved test method and equipment used. The bidder must provide this information and satisfy this mandatory requirement. The equipment will be operated in First Nations communities, including remote locations.

7d) Clarification Request:

- **“Test kits must produce results for presence/absence test, and/or quantification specific for the detection of Total Coliforms and E.coli, in less than 24 hours incubation time at temperatures between 30-37°C.”**

Please explain what is meant by this task? Will you be performing independent testing to confirm conformity to this requirement?

**Answer 7d):**

Test results for the presence/absence and or quantification of E.coli and Total coliforms must be generated in a less than 24 hour time period. Independent testing to confirm the validity of results may be conducted as determined by the EPHO and for QA/QC purposes.

7e) Clarification Request:

- **“Test kits must detect from one (1) to two hundred (200) Colony Forming Unit (CFU)/100m without dilutions, for Total Coliforms and E-Coli during testing.”**

As this testing is for drinking water quality testing, what if analysis does not detect any Colony Forming Unit (CFU)/100m without dilutions, for Total Coliforms and E-Coli during testing? A zero value is ideal?

**Answer 7e):**

For quantification testing (not presence/absence) the test equipment must have the sensitivity to detect one CFU to two hundred CFU per 100mL. For drinking water, a zero (NIL) result for Total Coliforms and E.coli is the desired result as per the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality.

7f) Clarification Request:

- **“Equipment must provide automated results interpretation and electronic notifications.”**

Please explain what is meant by this task? In what reporting media is this task to be satisfied (e.g., e-mail, quarterly reports, etc.)?

**Answer 7f):**

The equipment must be capable of reading and interpreting the result of the test analysis and provide electronic notifications through email or other electronic data transfer. For example, rather than a manual count or observation to determine the presence/absence of CFU count, the equipment must be capable of automated reading, interpretation and reporting of the results.

7g) Clarification Request:

- **“Test kits and equipment must have no requirement for media preparation or sterilization.”**

Please explain what is meant by this task? What is meant by “media preparation”?

**Answer 7g):**

Test kits must not require the tester to prepare additional media or suspensions for the purposes of analysis. Expended cartridges or vesicle must not have a requirement for sterilization prior to disposal.

7h) Clarification Request:

- **“Equipment must incorporate quality assurance and quality control protocols including but not limited to logging start and end test times, incubation temperatures and notifications of temperature deviations outside set parameters.”**

Please provide explain what is meant by this task? Can you provide the specific standards (e.g. ISO) and “set standards”, which must be followed?

**Answer 7h):**

This is referring to industry standard quality control and quality assurance protocols as specified in ISO 10725.

7i) Clarification Request:

- **“Test kits/equipment must be serviceable and have calibration validation capability.”**

The equipment can be serviceable but please explain what is serviced and validated for test kits.

**Answer 7i):**

Equipment must be capable of being validated against check standards and the ability to be serviced in case it is not within set calibration values and limits.

7j) Clarification Request:

- **“Units/equipment must be capable of analysing greater than 10 samples at a time.”**

Not knowing the Concept for Operation of these units, will the samples be obtained from 10 separate locations or one location only? Also, is the sampling to be performed automatically or manually as automated sampling would allowing for the automatic feeding of 10 tests at a time?

**Answer 7j):**

The test equipment must be capable of analysing greater than 10 different samples at one time. Samples are from different locations. The sampling is done manually, from different locations where as the analysis process needs to have a certain level of automation as described in response to question 8A.

7k) Clarification Request:

- **“The Contractor must provide a calibration validation cartridge (check standard) with each unit as part of quality control program. The analysis cartridges must have a minimum shelf-life of 8 months at the time of the delivery.”**

Would you accept equipment which doesn't have test kits for this calibration process (e.g., the equipment cleans and recalibrate itself automatically each time it conducts a test and validates)?

**Answer 7k):**

No. As a means of QA/QC, the test equipment must have a check standard to validate that it is operating within the calibration standards and limits.

**8) Request for Technical Clarification**

At **Mandatory servicing requirements (page 19 of 29):**

8a) Request for Technical Clarification:

- **“The Contractor must supply, package, and deliver the fully automated microbiology detection system and its related products to First Nation or Inuit communities across Canada located in the regions of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic (Atlantic includes New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia Newfoundland and Labrador).”**

The equipment required is described as Automated Microbiological Water Quality Monitoring System. To ensure a clear understanding of the reference “Automated”, can you explain which are the desired minimum automated performance capabilities that you require as there are numerous capabilities for this type of equipment?

**Answer 8a):**

At minimum the test equipment must have the following automation:

- (a) Notification of temperature deviations from set parameters;
- (b) Automated electronic notification of analysis start and end times;
- (c) Analysis of test results (reading of results) must be automated; and
- (d) Test Equipment must provide automated result interpretation and electronic notification.

8b) Request for Technical Clarification #19

- **“The Contractor must provide training on-site and on-line how to set up and use the device and its related products to Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHO) and Community. The Contractor must provide training on-site and on-line how to set up and use the device and its related products to Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHO) and Community.”**

Are the Environmental Public Health Officers (EPHO) employees of the Department of Health? Also, what is meant by Community? Is it understood that the herein mentioned individuals/entities will be custodians (end users) of the equipment.

**Answer 8b):**

EPHOs can be employees of the Government of Canada of the respective First Nation Organization(s). Community refers to the First Nations Community whereby trained Community Based Water Monitors will be operating the test equipment. Training is required for both EPHOs and Community Based Water Monitors. Both EPHOs and Community Based Water Monitors will end users of the equipment.

Question 9:

There is a facsimile submission number (i.e. (819) 997-9776) on the first page of tender documents, but on page 6 it is written that due to the nature of the bid solicitation, bids transmitted by facsimile will not be accepted. I was wondering if you would accept our offer submitted with facsimile.

Answer 2: Yes

Changes to the RFSO:

At Article 2.2,

DELETE: “Due to the nature of the Request for Standing Offers, transmission of offers by facsimile or electronic mail to PWGSC will not be accepted.”

**ALL OTHER CONDITIONS IN THE RFSO REMAIN UNCHANGED**