



SHARED SERVICES CANADA

Challenge-Based Solicitation (CBS) For an Event Broker Solution

Solicitation No.	2B0KB-1874371	Date	15 November 2018
Amendment No.	003	Amendment Date	7 December 2018
GCDocs File No.	32419587	GETS Reference No.	PW-18-00851200

Issuing Office	Shared Services Canada 180 Kent Street, 13 th Floor Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B5		
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Closing Date and Time	14:00 21 December 2018		
Time Zone	Eastern Standard Time (EST)		
Destination of Goods/Services	National Capital Region		
Email Address for Submitting your Bid by Solicitation Closing	ssc.pvrddcprojects-arfprojetscd.spc@canada.ca		

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT #003
SHARED SERVICES CANADA
Challenge-Based Solicitation (CBS)
For an Event Broker Solution

This amendment 003 is raised to:

- Amend the Tender Notice Description;
 - Amend the solicitation document;
 - Amend the solicitation attachments;
 - Publish the Bidders' Information Webinar presentation; and
 - Respond to Bidder questions 10-26.
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The Solicitation document is amended as follows:

1. At Page 7 **Article 2.1 Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions** sub-article c) Section 13 (2014-03-01) Communications – solicitation period is amended as follows:

Delete: To ensure the integrity of the competitive bid process, enquiries and other communications regarding the bid solicitation must be directed only to the Contracting Authority identified in the bid solicitation. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the bid being declared non-responsive.

Insert: Single Point of Contact: To ensure the integrity of the competitive procurement process, all formal questions and other communications regarding the solicitation must be directed only to the Contracting Authority identified in the solicitation. While public servants (who may or may not be involved in this procurement) may engage in exchanges in other fora, such as social media, official information that is binding on Canada will only be made available by the Contracting Authority and bidders relying on information found do so at their own risk.

2. At Page 10 **Article 3.2 Submission of Proposals** is amended as follows:

Delete: Bidders are requested to submit their proposal using the Technical Proposal Form Attachment 3 and the Financial Proposal Form Attachment 2. All proposals must be received by the closing date and time specified on Page 1 of the CBS, but to 3.2.1(h) below.

Insert: All proposals (technical and financial) must be received by the closing date and time specified on Page 1 of the CBS, but to 3.2.1(h) below.

Bidders are requested to submit their proposal using the following forms. Using the form to provide this information is not mandatory, but it is recommended:

- Proposal Submission Form (Attachment 1)
- Financial Proposal Form (Attachment 2).

- Technical Proposal Form (Attachment 3)

3. At Page 45 **Attachment 4 Evaluation Criteria** is amended as follows:

Insert: There are evaluation criteria that make reference to 3rd party adapters, libraries, or additionally licenses components.

In this solicitation, 3rd party adapters, libraries, or additionally licenses components means an adapters, libraries, or licenses components that the bidder do not have control over. Specifically for mandatory criteria, the bidder must demonstrate that he has the **capability to support, patch and maintain** its solution without having to go back to a 3rd party, entity other than the bidder. For example, if a defect is found with the component then the bidder is required to fix that bug.

The Solicitation attachments are amended as follows:

4. Insert new **Evaluation Criteria attachment_3_v2** which replaces **attachment_3.xlsx** (2018-11-15).
5. Publish Bidders' Information Webinar presentation and minutes (2018-11-29).
6. Publish Annex C Security Requirements Check List (SRCL).

The following table will be updated throughout the solicitation phase with the respective Amendment #, Amendment date, and Q&A # which will form a Q&A repository for the Event Broker Solution Challenge-Based Solicitation.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME

Amdt # Amdt Date	Question #	Reference	Question	Response
002 30 Nov 2018	1	PART 6 Article 6.4	Can companies from Outside Canada can apply for this? (Like, from India or USA)	<p>Yes. Bidders from outside of Canada may submit a bid as long as they are in position to satisfy all obligations under the resulting contract including the ones describe in paragraph 6.4 which states:</p> <p>“The Contractor agrees that, although it may access the Solution remotely, it must do so only from locations within Canada and the Contractor agrees to segregate its network or access to its network in all ways required in order to ensure that no person outside the geographic boundaries of Canada is capable of accessing the Solution remotely using the Contractor’s infrastructure.”</p>
	2	PART 4 Article 4.3.1.2 and Annex A SOW	Do companies need to come over there for meetings?	<p>During the solicitation process:</p> <p>During Stage 2, the presentation may be made in-person in Ottawa or via teleconference or videoconference at the bidder’s choice.</p> <p>During the Contract, as described in the Statement of Work:</p> <p>1.4.1 Stage 3 Location of Work The work for Stage 3 will be conducted at the Contractor’s facilities. However, for the task of supporting Canada’s Prototype Testing (related to Milestone 3), the Contractor may be asked to participate in workshops with the option of teleconference or in-person meetings in Ottawa, Ontario or Gatineau, Quebec.</p> <p>1.5.1 Stage 4 Location of Work If Canada exercises Option 1, the Work for Stage 4 must be performed at the Government of Canada</p>

				<p>office located at 255 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6A9.</p> <p>However, the tasks related to providing operational support (Task 4.2) may be carried out remotely via a secure connection to Government of Canada networks using a Government of Canada accepted 2-factor authentication solution.</p> <p>1.6.1 Stage 5 Location of Work The Work for Stage 5 must be performed at the Government of Canada office located at 255 Albert Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6A9.</p> <p>The tasks related to providing operational support (Task 5.2) may also be carried out remotely via a secure connection to Government of Canada networks using a Government of Canada accepted 2-factor authentication solution.</p>
	3	PART 6 Article 6.4 and Annex A SOW	Can suppliers perform the tasks (related to RFP) outside Canada? (like from India or USA)	No. See answer to question 2.
	4	PART 3 Article 3.2.1	Can bidders submit the proposal via email?	Yes. See Article 3.2.1 Electronic Submission of Proposals by Email.
	5	N/A	Has the Crown issued an RFI and/or ITQ in relation to this current RFP? If yes, are you able to disclose the solicitation number(s)?	<p>Yes, please refer to the following solicitation number: PW-16-00760893</p> <p>https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-16-00760893</p>
	6	N/A	Due to the very quick turnaround required for submission, and the fact that a vendor meeting is scheduled for November 29 that we assume will assist organizations with further understanding this	Solicitation Closing Date extended by 1 week to 1400 hrs 21 December 2018.

			RFP, would the Crown consider granting a 1 or 2 week extension for submissions?	
	7	PART 1 Article 1.4.1 and Annex A SOW	Can the Crown please provide more details as to how Stage 3: Delivery and Testing the Event Broker Solution Prototype would work for the line on Page 4 of the RFP ‘The prototypes must be configured in a publicly available environment (e.g., commercial Cloud)?’ Is the Crown expecting organizations to provide their prototype within their own Cloud environment that allows government departments access to test the prototype solution?	<p>Further details are described in Annex A Statement of Work:</p> <p>1.4.2.5 Stage 3 Milestone Details</p> <p>a) Milestone 1: Solution Prototype Delivery The Contractor must deliver the Solution prototype within the Contractor’s environment but accessible remotely by the Government of Canada. The delivered Solution prototype must provide all functionality defined in the Stage 3 Mandatory Requirements.</p> <p>The Contractor must provide access to the environment and Solution prototype for up to 30 users that will be testing the prototype. Canada will provide the list of users at least 10 business days prior to the Delivery Date.</p> <p>Milestone 3: Support Memo The Contractor must support Canada’s effort to integrate with and test the Solution prototype. Testing will begin once the Solution prototype has been delivered (Milestone 1: Solution Prototype Delivery) and last up to 25 business days in duration. Testing will include the functionality listed in the Stage 3 Mandatory Functional Requirements.</p> <p>As part of the support, the Contractor must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend workshops scheduled by Canada to walk through the operation of the Solution prototype. These workshops can be attended by either remote teleconference and videoconference or in person at an office in either Ottawa, Ontario or Gatineau, Quebec. Attending in-person or remotely will be at the Contractor’s discretion.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide step-by-step documentation for executing the functionality described in the Stage 3 Mandatory Functional Requirements. • Assist in troubleshooting any issues with the use of the Solution prototype. <p>After providing this support, the Contractor must provide a Support Memo to reflect that support within 5 working days of completing the support. This Support Memo must contain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of all workshops and support sessions attended; • A list and description of all documentation provided in support for the testing; and • A list of any defects/issues resolved during prototype testing.
	8	PART 1 Article 1.1 and 2.2(b)	Could a bidder submit a proposal with different licensing terms than those defined in the resulting contract?	<p>Article 1.1 of the General Information states:</p> <p>“Canada welcomes software solutions comprised of commercial-off-the-shelf software components, non-commercial (proprietary) software components, open source software components, or any combination thereof. The evaluation methodology does not distinguish between solutions that have components which may be subject to different licensing regimes. Canada will require that COTS and other proprietary software components be licensed to Canada under SACC 4003 and will require that any open source software components be licensed to Canada under the MIT licence. Suppliers must identify during the solicitation period whether they require alternate licensing terms for components in the supplier’s potential solution. Suppliers must propose any alternate software licensing terms during the solicitation period so that Canada can consider whether it can accept the alternate license terms.”</p>

				<p>If a bidder wants to submit different licensing terms, you must do it during the solicitation period so that, if acceptable, Canada could make them available for all bidders via a formal solicitation amendment.</p> <p>As specified under paragraph 2.2 Enquiries – Solicitation:</p> <p>“All enquiries are requested to be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority no later than 10 calendar days before the CBS closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.”</p>
	9	PART 1 Article 1.4.1	How quickly must responsive bidders be ready to provide the Presentation defined in Stage 2?	Bidders will be expected to be ready to provide the presentation within approximately 2 business days of being notified that they qualify for Stage 2.
003 10 Dec 2018	10	PART 3 Article 3.4 and Annex B	Is it expected that the pricing limits include all software licenses as well?	Yes. As stated in article 3.4, “Where requested in Attachment 2, the Bidder must provide firm, all-inclusive prices for the Licensed Software and the Subscription Services. These all-inclusive prices must include any upgrade or update that will be required to satisfy the Contractor’s obligations described in Annex A Statement of Work.”
	11	Attachment 3	In the response template (Attachment 3) the fields are set to a limit of 1000 characters. Our answers may exceed that number. Are we allowed to alter that template or do we have to fit within it?	The correct limit for substantiating each criterion is 5000 characters. The form is updated as a part of this Amendment 3. Any information above the 5000 characters will not be considered.
	12	N/A	Are we allowed to provide hyperlinks within our responses?	No. See the Standard Instructions 2003 (2018-05-22) Section 5, Submission of Bids, paragraph 7. “Unless specified otherwise in the bid solicitation, Canada will evaluate only the documentation provided with a bidder's bid. Canada will not evaluate information such as references to Web site addresses where additional information can be found, or technical manuals or brochures not submitted with the bid.”
	13	PART 1 Article 1.1	Who is the vendor of the GC Enterprise Service Bus referenced in section 1.1 of the CBS?	Oracle SOA Suite implemented by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC).

	14	PART 1 Article 1.1	Why not extend the API Store project referenced in Section 1.1 to meet the needs of this challenge?	The API Store is functionally very different and does not support asynchronous messaging, so they have very different requirements.
	15	N/A	Based on the stages and options slides, the spending amounts are the same regardless of transaction amounts, correct?	As stated under 6.8.2 Basis of Payment Stages 4 and 5 Ceiling Prices If Canada exercises options 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5, and in consideration of the Contractor satisfactorily completing all of its obligations under the Contract, the Contractor will be paid in accordance with the Basis of Payment in Annex B up to the ceiling prices set out there. The Basis of Payment is based on Implementation Milestones Firm Prices, All-Inclusive Firm Unit Prices for Licensed Software and Subscription Services and Firm All-Inclusive Hourly Rates. The prices to be paid does not vary with the level of transaction.
	16	Attachment 4	In the attachment number 4, there is no proposed architecture for the solution, including interactions, transaction flows, API-based deployments. Can this level of detail please be provided?	The event broker is an industry-standard architectural concept and we are expecting bidders to provide their own proposed architectures. At this point the Government of Canada has decided on a decoupled architecture and we do not believe we have to provide specific architectures for bidders to respond.
	17	N/A	Can we get a copy or recording of the presentation?	The minutes from this meeting, including questions, answers, and the presentation are attached.
	18	N/A	This is a “challenge-based” solicitation. Is it an ITQ, or RFI or RFP based on previous tenders on Buy and Sell Canada?	This is a new approach. It’s a solicitation, not an ITQ. It is an open form of request for proposal, a challenge-based procurement.
	19	Attachment 4	What could be the average spool accumulated across all consumers during the outage for RPO?	See the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Attachment 4 as the basis of this average. Specifically, M4-2, “Performance requirements” and M5-2 “Recovery Time Objective”.

	20	Attachment 4	Can it be assumed that the JMS spec needs to be fully implemented rather than partially? In other words, full support of topics and queues?	Yes, see Attachment 4, R2.1: “The bidder should demonstrate that the proposed solution implements JMS (Java Message Service).”
	21	PART 3 Article 3.2	Could you clearly identify and articulate what is required by the due date? Is it strictly the answers for the mandatories and the requirements of stage one, or is the financial proposal required as well?	The solicitation has been amended to improve the clarity. See amendment above.
	22	Attachment 4	MQ refers to message queuing, FIFO implementations, or the IMB MQ product? When you say MQ compatibility does that mean that we need to connect to MQ or provide MQ as a broker?	The IBM MQ product. The solution should connect to MQ as an endpoint, provider or subscriber. See Attachment 4, R2.2.
	23	Attachment 4	What is the definition of third-party products? If a vendor decides to bundle in open-source libraries are they considered third-party?	The solicitation has been amended to improve the clarity. See amendment above.
	24	Attachment 4	The number of brokers is often dictated by the number of locations. Is the number of physical locations provided?	It is expected to be a centralized location. We are open to vendor suggestions during Stage 4 on the number of physical nodes required to meet the availability and performance objectives (see Attachment 4).
	25	N/A	Is a physically separate disaster recovery site to be assumed?	It is up to the vendor based on the architecture they plan on implementing how they plan to implement disaster recovery and distributed high availability. We are open to suggestions.
	26	N/A	For delivery receipts, who is the intended recipient?	The Government of Canada is not expecting to provide a response to this question at this stage. It is expected that this is a detail of implementation and that it should be addressed during the Stage 3 or Stage 4. If it is expected that this will materially impact a bidder’s proposal, it is requested that a follow-up be provided with clarification.