

Solicitation 1000211711

Q&A #9 to #12

Question #9

The answer to Question 7 states there will be a Total of 6 standing offers. Will these be broken down by the Categories or will a Bidders “Higher Security Clearance” be the largest deciding factor in determining if they gain an SO after meeting the Mandatory Requirements?

Answer #9

As per section 4.3 of the Request for Standing Offer, the top 6 Offerors with the lowest price per point shall be recommended for standing offers.

Question #10

In the existing list of SO holders –there are exactly 6 holders holding both “Classified” Categories (in both language streams). The methodology of granting a high point value for those who possess “Secret” clearance means that the process will likely match that exact number, all others need not apply. Why exactly is there a Protected A & B category when it is meaningless unless Holders of Protected A & B only compete against each other?

Answer #10

The security aspect of the Request for Standing Offer point rated evaluation is only a partial determination of ranking. As per section 4.3 of the Request for Standing Offer, the top 6 Offerors with the lowest price per point shall be recommended for standing offers. And to note that the information regarding the current standing offer holders is inaccurate and was not a deciding factor regarding resulting number of Standing Offers from the Request for Standing Offers.

Question #11

Is it possible to give an estimated volume of historical requirements under each of the 3 Categories? It is our understanding based upon many other Federal bid solicitations that the number of requests performed by outside agencies that fall into Category 3-Secret is extremely small –well under 1% (with the vast MAJORITY being translated in-house by the Translation Bureau); we would like to know this number, and why it justifies the huge impact on Rankings (20 Points for Classified – last RFSO was 5 points)? When 99+% of the work required falls under General & A & B, why is this RFSO so narrowly focused those with Classified?

Answer #11

Although it is understood that most documents authored by the Federal Government may be unclassified, using the previous Standing Offer model, more than 50% of the users requested call-ups with the option of Classified. Based on the number of requests over the last Standing Offer period, it was determined as being an important factor.

Question #12

In order for this to be a fair procurement process in which the major factor of winning the bid, once all mandatory items are met, is a bidders level of security –is Health Canada willing to sponsor those that “met requirements: but were not awarded an SO on Points because they had a lower level of security?

Answer #12

In regards to the basis of selection, please see answers to questions 9 and 10 where security is not the sole determining factor. An Offeror must have the level of security they wish to bid for at time of bid closing. If they wish to obtain a higher level of security for future requirements, Health Canada can assist with this process.