

## **Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) IT Datacenter/Colocation Facilities**

### **1. 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.

The National Energy Board (NEB) has a requirement for IT Datacenter co-location facilities to house IT equipment.

The purpose of this ACAN is to provide public notice indicating to the supplier community that the NEB intends to award a short term bridge contract for datacenter services to Q9 Networks Inc. to meet immediate operational needs and to allow the NEB enough time to run a competitive process for the longer term datacenter services

### **2. Definition of the Requirement**

The NEB has since 2005 leveraged two geographically disparate datacenter facilities to house IT equipment. These datacenters are designated RED (day-to-day production IT needs) and WHITE (IT Disaster Recovery).

The NEB currently uses these datacenters to provide the ability to physically separate production infrastructure from disaster recovery and back-up systems. Both facilities are local to the Calgary area, and physically accessible to NEB staff for support/maintenance activities

### **Background**

In January 2017, The NEB had run a competitive solicitation process (84084-16-0223) for the WHITE (IT Disaster Recovery) datacenter services. This solicitation process resulted in the award of one contract to Rogers Communications Canada Inc.

In July 20, 2017, the NEB initiated a second request for proposal (RFP) 84084-17-0053 for RED (day-to-day production IT needs) datacenter services seeking a service provider to

- house the NEB's primary, production datacenter (designated the RED datacenter) in a secure, supplier owned and operated facility,

- provide enhanced network access between the NEB office location (in Calgary) and the new datacenter,
- provide network connectivity between the secondary disaster recovery datacenter (WHITE IT disaster recovery) and RED (day-to-day production IT needs) datacenter.

RFP 84084-17-0053 was unsuccessful and did not result in the award of a contract.

This ACAN will allow the NEB to continue with an existing arrangement with Q9 Networks Inc., the current RED (day-to-day production IT needs) datacenter services provider and by providing the NEB the time necessary to formally compete, evaluate, award a contract, and to transition from current service provider to winning bidder.

### **Considerations**

NEB office location, Centre 10 does not have facilities nor personnel to house or operate an IT datacenter. The NEB must rely on a third party for its co-location needs.

- Over the next two to five years, the NEB can expect to see a large portion of its production IT services move to the public Cloud. This migration will reduce NEB's dependency on a third party to house the RED datacenter.

### **3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)**

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- A committed Power Demand of 10,000VA
- 10Mbps Internet, burstable to 100Mbps/Sec
- 10 GB WAN connectivity between Centre-10 and RED datacenter
- Minimum of one(1) and up to three (3) full cabinets
- support for Zayo-provided WAN circuit, and Cross-connect from Zayo demarc to NEB Cabinet to support CNS4 WAN connectivity
- These must be available 4 weeks after closing date of the ACAN.

### **4. Applicability of the trade agreements to the procurement**

CFTA, NAFTA

## **5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier**

Q9 Networks Inc. is the current service provider for the NEB RED datacenter. The NEB's requirement is immediate; latency involved in moving computing equipment and establishing network connectivity to the facilities of a different service provider are not consistent with the NEB's immediate timeline. Transitioning from current supplier to a different provider may take between four (4) to six (6) months.

**Note:** This ACAN is a notice of a short-term contract that allows the NEB to properly compete the full requirement.

## **6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)**

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

*“only one person is capable of performing the work”*

## **7. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date**

The period of this contract is from date of contract award to December 31, 2019.

## **8. Cost estimate of the proposed contract**

The estimated value of the contract, including option(s), is from \$70,000 to \$200,000 (GST/HST extra).

## **9. Deliverables**

The National Energy Board requires:

A committed Power Demand of 10,000VA

10 Mbps Internet, burstable to 100Mbps/Sec

10 GB WAN connectivity between Centre-10 and RED datacenter

Minimum of one (1) and up to three (3) full cabinets

Cross-connect from Zayo demark to NEB Cabinet to support CNS4 wan connectivity

**10. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier**

Bell Canada  
Royal Bank Building  
Suite 2200, 335 – 8 Ave SW  
Calgary AB, T2P 1C9

**11. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities**

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the 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.

**12. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities**

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is

*June 26, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. MDT*

**13. Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:**

Nafissa Diop, Procurement Officer  
National Energy Board  
517 10 Ave SW  
Calgary, Alberta, T2R 0A8  
Telephone: 403-390-3773  
E-mail: [nafissa.diop@neb-one.gc.ca](mailto:nafissa.diop@neb-one.gc.ca)