



## Advances Contract Award Notice

Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) requires consulting and costing expertise in the field of capital construction and accessible design to undertake an assessment of a select group of accessibility items traditionally funded under the Enabling Accessibility Fund (EAF) small projects component and to create a flexible and scalable model that would assign flat rates for those items.

The purpose of the ACAN is to signal the Government of Canada's (GC) intent to award a contract to:

f-BLOK Architecture  
217-1460 Chevrier BLVD  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 1Y6

Before awarding a contract, the GC would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in the ACAN by submitting a statement of capabilities during the fifteen (15) calendar days posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the fifteen (15) calendar days posting period that meet the requirements set out in the CAN, the GC will proceed to a full-tendering process on the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the preselected supplier.

### Background

ESDC is responsible for administering the EAF program, a \$22.7M per year federal grants and contributions program that focuses on accessibility of the built environment for persons with disabilities in Canadian communities and workplaces. The EAF supports community-based projects that aim to improve accessibility and safety for people with disabilities by removing barriers in Canadian communities and workplaces through construction, renovation and retrofit projects. Since the program's inception in 2007, the EAF has funded over 4,000 projects across Canada.

Since 2007, there has been an annual competitive call for proposals (CFP) for the small projects component, which has consistently resulted in a high number of applications and lengthy assessment processes that can take 7-9 months from the launch of a call to funding successful organizations. To be more responsive to client needs and address some of the administrative challenges identified by applicants, Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) is considering the development of a flat rate costing model as a way to simplify the application process and to reduce the administrative burden for applicants.



## Requirement Definition

The contractor will be required to:

- **Conduct information gathering, analysis and develop a proposed flat rate costing methodology that is scaled based on key variables**
  - The contractor will review project information from EAF small projects selected for funding over the last two fiscal years (2017-18 & 2018-19) and develop a proposed costing methodology for three of the most commonly funded construction activities: installing ramps, automatic door openers, and accessible washrooms (i.e. interior and exterior doors, push buttons, ramps made of metal, wood, concrete, bathroom components, etc.).
  - A number of key variables will need to be taken into consideration in the development of the costing methodology that could affect the cost of materials and labour, this includes but is not limited to geographical location, rural/remoteness disparities, inflation, etc.
  - The proposed costing methodology is due 6 weeks into the contract
  - The methodology can either be an itemization of components or a scale, based on advice from the contractor.
  - Should a flat-rate costing methodology not be appropriate or suitable for any of the above categories or elements thereof, the contractor is expected to provide an acceptable detailed explanation and/or alternate recommendations.
  
- **Produce a flat rate costing model**
  - Ensure specifications and components conform to the *Canadian Standard Association's "Accessible Design for the Built Environment" (B651-12 (R2018))* and/ or appropriate building codes and/or accessibility legislation and standards in effect in the jurisdictions where projects activities would be undertaken.



## Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier

ESDC has determined that f-BLOK is the only known supplier that is capable of successfully performing the work. This is supported by a previous open RFP process for the same services in August 2018 where there were no other bidders. F-BLOK has the expertise, experience and knowledge of the program to complete this work in the time required.

Limited tendering of this requirement is consistent with the provisions of the Government Contracts Regulations (GCRs) Section 6, where only one firm is capable of performing the contract and additionally, as per Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) Article 506 Section 12, where only one supplier is able to meet the requirements of a procurement; as per North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Article 1016 Section 2 (b), where, for works of art, or for reasons connected with the protection of patents, copyrights or other exclusive rights, or proprietary information or where there is an absence of competition for technical reasons, the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists; and as per Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement Article 1409 Section 1. (b) (ii), where the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for any of the following reasons: the protection of patents, copyrights or other exclusive rights and as per World Trade Organization-Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP) section XV.1 (b), when, for works of art or for reasons connected with protection of exclusive rights, such as patents or copyrights, or in the absence of competition for technical reasons, the products or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists.

## Contract Period

The consulting services are required for a pilot project for a period of 4 months (July to November 2019), with a maximum value of \$49,500.

If the pilot is successful, additional phases for other accessibility items may occur, including the following (*which is subject to change*):

Phase 2 (tentatively June 2020-October 2020): may focus on exterior accessibility projects such as paths, playgrounds and parking. Estimated cost: \$25,000

Phase 3 (tentatively January 2021-May 2021): may focus on technology and sensory items for which flat rate costing is scalable such as hearing loops, visual fire alarms, standardized multi-sensory rooms and screen readers. Estimated cost: \$30,000



### Estimated Contract Value

The estimated total value of the contract is \$104,500, applicable taxes extra.

### Intellectual Property

ESDC will own the Intellectual Property.

### Submission of Statement of Capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the Contracting Authority 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.

### Minimum Essential Requirements

The bidder must demonstrate that they have the experienced and qualified resources to undertake the specified work including the following:

1. The bidder must demonstrate they have working knowledge of local material and labour costing related to construction including practical working knowledge of the National Building Code, and regional building codes.
2. The bidder must demonstrate their expertise in the specification of accessible products and solutions, including Inclusive Design Specialist designation
3. The bidder must be a member, in good standing, and remain in good standing for the duration of the contract, of the Canadian Institute of Quantity Surveyors as well as be Gold Seal Certified (Estimating), by the Canadian Construction Association.
4. The bidder must demonstrate a minimum of 8 years of experience in the field of construction cost consulting and project feasibility field within the last 5 years.
5. The bidder must demonstrate that it has knowledge and experience with the application of the [Canadian Standard Association's "Accessible Design for the Built Environment" B651-12 \(R2018\)](#).
6. The bidder must be able to assess the projects which may be presented in either Official language

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities are:

July 17, 2019 EDT 14:00pm

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed via email to:

Manon Rondeau  
Supply Specialist  
[NC-SOLICITATIONS-GD@hrscd-rhdcc.gc.ca](mailto:NC-SOLICITATIONS-GD@hrscd-rhdcc.gc.ca)