

## ADVANCED CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

### TRANSITION ALAKSEN NATIONAL WILDLIFE AREA TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

#### 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.

#### 2. Definition of the requirement

Established in 1976, the Alaksen National Wildlife Area (NWA) protects important migration and over-wintering habitats for waterfowl and other birds. Located in the 67,000 hectare (Ward et al. 1992) Fraser River delta in southwestern British Columbia, the NWA is an important part of a vital link in a network of important Pacific coast habitats that stretch from Siberia to South America. No other site in Canada supports the diversity and number of birds in winter (at least half a million), and no comparable site exists along the Pacific coast between California and Alaska (Butler and Campbell 1987).

The NWA provides an overwintering site for many birds, particularly waterfowl, and is an important winter foraging site for Canada Geese, Snow Geese, Mallards, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and American Widgeon. Management of the NWA has generally been focused on these species.

Agricultural land provides much of the wildlife habitat seen today on the Fraser River delta, including within the NWA. Cultivated fields make up approximately 140 ha (over 40%) of the total NWA and farming is the main management tool used on the NWA. Agriculture on the NWA provides important forage for wintering and migrating waterfowl, including the tens of thousands of Lesser Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) that arrive each October. Historically, these birds and other waterfowl used the varied habitats from mudflats, foreshore marshes and seasonally flooded fields during migration and to over winter. Soil-based agriculture now serves a similar ecological function to seasonally flooded wet meadows. Currently, agricultural activities are permitted under specified conditions laid out in individual agreements between each farmer and the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Alaksen NWA is currently farmed using conventional commercial agricultural practices, which includes the use of highly toxic (to mammalian, avian and aquatic species), broad spectrum, and persistent pesticides. Pesticide protocols have been put in place to mitigate the risk of exposure to staff and visitors on the site; however, over time, a number of considerations have emerged that now require a reevaluation of use of standard agricultural practices.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) must meet its national obligations under current federal legislation including the *Species at Risk Act*, the *Canada Wildlife Act*, the *Migratory Bird Convention Act* and affiliated Regulations. ECCC must also meet its obligations under various international policies and agreements including the Federal Wetland Policy which holds Canada responsible for protecting habitat for waterfowl from impacts resulting from land or water use and environmental quality changes on federally protected areas.

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) of ECCC has contracted Kwantlen Polytechnic University to investigate and report on alternate agronomic practices that support and enhance wildlife habitat within the Alaksen NWA as well as the enhancement of the general function of the farming operations on the wildlife area. This research and subsequent report that delivered successfully in 2018-19.

We now require the Contractor, Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to take on a complex, multifaceted task of transitioning Alaksen NWA from a conventional to organic farming model, while maintaining the conservation values of the NWA.

**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. Experience: 5 years of recent experience conducting research/trials on crop varieties and rotations as well as soil systems.
- b. Experience: 5 years recent experience conducting crop nutrition management research.
- c. Experience: 5 years recent experience in soil conservation/health management research
- d. Experience: 5 years recent experience in hedgerow management research.
- e. Knowledge and understanding of organic and conventional agricultural systems, specifically how to transition between the two.
- f. Knowledge and understanding of the economic and marketability of crops in BC
- g. Knowledge and understanding of pest management systems in BC
- h. Knowledge and understanding of the local agriculture systems and their importance within the greater Fraser River Delta.

**4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement**

This procurement is not subject to any trade agreement

**5. Set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business**

This procurement is not a set-aside for an Aboriginal supplier in accordance with the government Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business (PSAB).

**6. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement(s)**

This procurement is not subject to the Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement.

**7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier**

To our knowledge of industry, there are no other available suppliers with the expertise and resources to do the work. The ACAN posting will help assess if there are alternative sources of supply.

The suggested supplier is familiar with the area, has excellent background knowledge of the area and its challenges, and is the best fit for this research.

**8. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)**

The following exception(s) to the Government Contracts Regulations is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection subsection 6(d) - only one person is capable of performing the work.

**9. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons**

Not applicable

**10. Ownership of Intellectual Property**

Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract is to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination).

The water chemistry data collected under this contract will be available to the Vendor, the Crown and to the public (through posting on open data websites).

**11. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date**

The proposed contract is for a period is from contract award to *March 31, 2020*.

**12. Cost estimate of the proposed contract**

The estimated value of the contract is \$60,000.00

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

Kwantlen Polytechnic University  
Institute for Sustainable Food Systems  
12666 72 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3W 2M8

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

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction 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.

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

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is August 21, 2019, **2019, 02:00 P.M. PST**).

**16. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities.**

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

*Angelina Garcia*  
*Contracting Authority*  
*Environment Canada*  
*201 – 401 Burrard Street*  
*Vancouver, BC V6C 3S5*  
Telephone: 604-664-9114  
Facsimile: 604-713-9867  
E-mail: [Angelina.Garcia@canada.ca](mailto:Angelina.Garcia@canada.ca)