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800 Burrard Street, Room 219

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<b>Title - Sujet</b> RFI-Fraser River Big Bar Landslide	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> EZ899-202159/A	<b>Date</b> 2019-11-26
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b>	<b>GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG</b> PW-\$PWY-025-8699
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> PWY-9-42165 (025)	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> <b>on - le 2019-12-06</b>	
<b>Time Zone</b> <b>Fuseau horaire</b> Pacific Standard Time PST	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> Specified Herein - Précisé dans les présentes <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> Fung, Donna(PWY)	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> pwy025
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (604) 671-9689 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> (604) 775-6633
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b> PWGSC - Fraser River Big Bar Rockslide - Lillooet, BC	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

<b>Delivery Required - Livraison exigée</b> See Herein	<b>Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée</b>
<b>Vendor/Firm Name and Address</b> <b>Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur</b>	
<b>Telephone No. - N°de téléphone</b> <b>Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur</b>	
<b>Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm</b> <b>(type or print)</b> <b>Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/</b> <b>de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

## **Request for Information (RFI)**

### **Government of Canada Response to the Fraser River Rockslide**

#### **Purpose of this RFI**

Public Services and Procurement Canada, on behalf of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Canada) is requesting information from interested parties for construction and environmental remediation services necessary to re-establish fish passage in the Fraser River in response to the Big Bar Land Slide. This RFI is intended to gather information that could assist Canada in the development of a future procurement process. In the event that sufficient information is received, Canada may, but is not obligated to, initiate a competitive, limited or directed contracting process.

Given the urgency of this requirement, the RFI will close Friday, 06 December, 2019 and no extensions will be granted. Feedback received after this date may not be considered. In the interest of time and in order to facilitate a real-time exchange of information, a WebEx meeting will be organized for Monday, 02 December, 2019. If you wish to participate in the WebEx, please contact the Contracting Authority (Donna Fung) for the details.

The purpose of issuing this RFI is to:

- Obtain information on constructability and potential new approaches or new technologies;
- Obtain recommendations that would enhance the success of proposed fish passage remediation activities;
- Identify potential contractors who possess specialized equipment and construction expertise and experience in fish passage remediation, in-stream work and working in remote and challenging environmental conditions;
- Identify local Indigenous business with the capacity to conduct operations and have an interest in participating in an economic benefits program; and
- Provide awareness of the planned projects to industry.

Interested parties are invited to respond to this RFI by submitting a response to Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC). Responses should include ideas, information and recommendations, potential cost-saving opportunities, and the identification of potential risks associated with this work.

#### **Estimated Value of Project**

The total estimated value of this project is in the range of \$10,000,001 to \$30,000,000.

## **Background**

The Big Bar Land Slide (approximately 60 km north of Lillooet, BC) occurred in June 2019 and has caused a blockage in the Fraser River which is having a negative effect on various salmon species that are not able to reach their spawning grounds. Initial estimates indicate 75,000m<sup>3</sup> of material was deposited in the river.

Without immediate environmental remediation, many salmon stocks native to the upper Fraser River (a large geographic region of BC) may become extinct. These impacts could result in economic losses throughout BC and pose risks to food security and the culture of many Fraser River Indigenous communities.

Through summer 2019, the initial response to the landslide was managed by a Joint Incident Command structure that consisted of a government-to-government-to-government collaboration comprised of three parties: federal, provincial, and First Nations. Over a three-month period following the reporting of the landslide incident, several activities were completed. These included the monitoring of fish passage, hydraulic and geotechnical investigation, a temporary fish transport program, and the temporary restoration of fish passage.

While much of the slide material has eroded or mobilized downstream by freshet flows, the largest slide fragments (estimated 20% of slide material) remain in the area critical to fish passage. Engineering investigation has identified the need for a fish passage remediation plan during the first available low water window anticipated to occur between December 2019 and March 2020 to reduce water velocity levels and height barrier for migrating salmon. Construction activities proposed for the upcoming low water window include mid-channel, breaking and/or manipulation and strategic blasting of the East toe outcrop and slide debris removal from the West bank.

Additional information can be found at the following website:

<https://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pacific-smon-pacifique/big-bar-landslide-eboulement/index-eng.html>

## **Work Description**

The objective of this project is to break up, remove, and/or move rock from the site of the Big Bar Land Slide in the Fraser River to improve natural fish passage. This work is water level dependent and activities such as blasting, in-river work and debris removal must be completed while suitable river conditions exist and before river levels are projected to rise. Historically water levels in this section of the Fraser River begin to rise around March 15<sup>th</sup> but may vary dependent on the environmental conditions experienced.

The work required to meet the objectives of the project will likely include a combination of drilling and blasting rock along with moving and/or removing rock using an excavator. Some

rock may be removed from the channel while other rock will be broken into pieces small enough to be carried away by the spring freshet. Work activities will include:

- mobilization and demobilization;
- establish & maintain safe access for working conditions and equipment;
- accessing mid-channel boulders;
- in river boulder removal (likely by drilling & blasting);
- strategic drilling and blasting of the east bank outcrop;
- breaking and removal of slide debris along the west bank; and
- establishing final river bed elevations, grading and strategic placement of key rock features providing energy dissipation and resting area for migrating salmon, as directed by DFO and/or engineering representative.

The slide occurred in a remote area without road access, in a narrow canyon where slope stability remains a hazard and limits operations. It is anticipated that specialized equipment will be needed to establish access to the base of the slide. Potential specialized equipment could include but is not limited to:

- Spider Excavators;
- remote operated bulldozer winch;
- heavy lift helicopters w/ long lining capabilities;
- heavy equipment rock hammer and drill attachments;
- steep slope and remote access stabilization drills and DTH drills;
- cableways and rope access high lines;
- work platforms and gangways;
- all terrain cranes;
- conventional explosives; and
- other innovative and specialized equipment.

The site where the landslide occurred is remote and not easily accessed by equipment. The west bank of the site can be accessed from Lillooet using 4x4 accessible roads. The estimated travel time from Lillooet by 4x4 vehicle is approximately 3 hours. Equipment cannot be delivered to site using a low-bed truck and must be walked in the last 15 km of road.

Big Bar Ferry, just south of the east bank of the site, can be reached using 4x4 accessible roads from Clinton. Estimated travel time to Big Bar Ferry from Clinton is 1.5 hours. Equipment delivery is greatly limited along this route due to road weight capacity and ferry weight limits. The Big Bar Ferry is not currently operating and will not operate during the proposed work window. A cable car is available at Big Bar Ferry to transport pedestrians across the river. Private boats can be navigated to site from Lillooet or Big Bar Ferry and kept at Big Bar Ferry to cross the river.

There is currently no road or machine trail to the riverbank from the top of the canyon. Previously, some equipment has been successfully lowered to the riverbank using a winch system.

Given the unique and specialized nature of this this work, remote location, low water window and less than favourable weather conditions, Canada is seeking input from the industry regarding timely and effective solutions, associated procurement strategies as well as any other meaningful feedback it may have to offer in relation to this requirement.

The following photographs are intended to provide enhanced awareness of the scope and scale of the project.



Figure 1 - Spider excavator working to establish access along the base of the slide





Figure 2 - Spider excavator descending the steep slopes using a remote operated winch assist

### **Contemplated Procurement Strategy**

The development of the most appropriate and effective procurement strategy ranging from a non-competitive to fully competitive process is currently underway. In the event that a fully competitive selection process is decided upon, it is envisioned that the requirement would be publicly advertised on BuyandSell.gc.ca with a shortened bidding period of as few as 10 days. The selection methodology has yet to be determined and could range from an Invitation to Tender (ITT) (lowest priced, technically compliant bid) or a Request for Proposal (RFP) that considers both price and technical merit.

### **Involvement of Local Indigenous Communities**

As part of the Government of Canada's goal of modernizing procurement practices, including that of social procurement and developing initiatives to increase the diversity of bidders on government contracts, including that of Indigenous Peoples, Canada invites input from the Indigenous business community.

The Big Bar land slide occurred on the traditional territory of the High Bar and Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek) First Nations and the economic, resource, and cultural effects of the rockslide may affect up to an additional 140 First Nations. Feedback through this RFI may also help inform the consideration of potential socio-economic benefits, such as skills and economic development, to Indigenous communities both within the area, as well as other impacted

communities. Previously identified areas of direct Indigenous involvement in the initial slide response have included, but are not limited to: subcontracting, archeological monitoring, fish salvage, environmental monitoring, labour, training, etc.

This requirement will not be set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business.

Should a competitive procurement strategy apply, the evaluation strategy may include either mandatory or point-rated criterion focused toward an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) related to the High Bar and Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek) First Nations or other local First Nations. Conversely, the evaluation strategy may include a combination of both types of criterion.

Interested bidders are encouraged to engage with the High Bar, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek), other interested First Nations, as well as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada at the coordinates below:

Dale Michie

A/Aboriginal Affairs Advisor

Fisheries and Oceans, Fraser and Interior Area

[Dale.Michie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:Dale.Michie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

(250) 851-4946

### **Industry Engagement Questions**

For the purpose of this project, Canada is interested in determining the current industry capacity to satisfy this requirement.

Please consider the following questions in your response to this RFI.

- 1) Does your firm possess the expertise necessary to undertake this type of work and if so, has your firm done such work in the past? Please provide details
- 2) Does your firm feel it would be capable of completing the work within the specified timeframe? Please provide details.
- 3) The Big Bar landslide occurred in a remote section of the Fraser canyon, approximately 60 km North (and upstream) of the town of Lillooet and 50 km west of Clinton BC. Winter road access is weather dependent and often unmaintained. How would you propose getting material, equipment, and crews to site on a daily basis?

- 4) What measures would be adopted to mitigate and address site specific safety concerns, including but not limited to: swift water, steep slope, overhead geo hazards, site remoteness, and inclement weather conditions?
- 5) For prime contractors considering this opportunity, how could you work with sub-contractors, labour, material, and equipment available from the High Bar, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem, and other local First Nations? How would your company organize and manage this?
- 6) Do you own, operate or represent an Indigenous business that can provide equipment and/or have experience in any of the following services: fish passage restoration, fish salvage operations, environmental monitoring, archeological monitoring, construction monitoring or other relevant trades? If so, please describe.
- 7) Would a partial design (approx. 30% complete) and performance specification be sufficient to allow you to prepare a bid on this project, with the understanding that some of the design would need to be completed by the Contractor's team at the shop drawing/post award stage?
- 8) Are there other methodologies you could propose that would yield a timely and responsive solution. Please provide details.
- 9) Do you anticipate the inclusion of a requirement for an Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) will have an impact on your participation in this procurement?

Please identify any other issues, concerns, or recommendations not addressed above.

### **Important Note to Respondents**

Respondents are to submit their responses to the PSPC Contracting Authority, identified below, preferably via email.

Donna Fung  
Supply Specialist, Real Property Contracting  
Public Services and Procurement Canada  
219 – 800 Burrard Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6Z 0B9  
E-mail address: Donna.Fung@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca  
Telephone: (604) 671-9689  
Facsimile: (604) 775-6633

A point of contact for the Respondent should be included in the package.



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This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

This RFI is not intended to constitute, or be interpreted as a call for tenders or a call for proposals. Submission of a response to this RFI or participation in a meeting is not intended to, nor does it, create any contractual or other legally binding obligation or duty, including any obligation or duty to accept or reject information, to enter into negotiations or decline to enter into or continue negotiations, or to award or decline to award a contract. Respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns, and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

There is no formal structure or format that a response to this RFI should meet. The respondent should feel free to submit whatever information it feels would make a useful and relevant contribution to Canada's analysis of this project and the development of solicitation documents to procure a solution to fulfill its requirements.

Canada may, in its sole discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response.

All responses will be treated as confidential, subject to the provisions of the Access to Information Act (R.S. 1985, c. A-1) and the Privacy Act (R.S., 1985, c. P-21).

Canada will in no way make any direct attribution of any information obtained from respondents that has been identified by respondents as "confidential" or "proprietary" within their responses.

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

A review team composed of representatives of Canada will review the responses received. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant or use any resources that it considers necessary to review any response, in part or in its entirety. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

In addition to any other expressed or implied rights, Canada reserves the right to:

1. Cancel this RFI process at any time;
2. Cancel this RFI process at any time and issue a new RFI for the same or similar information;
3. Make amendments to the timing and/or structure of this RFI process, including the closing date of the RFI, at its exclusive discretion;
4. Request additional supporting information or clarification from any or all respondents, and/or provide to respondents additional clarification and information pertinent to this RFI;
5. Contact any customer or reference provided within a respondent's submission; and
6. Not consider any response, in its entirety, containing information which Canada in its opinion, believes to contain misrepresentations or any other inaccurate, suspicious or misleading information.

Questions regarding this RFI must be submitted electronically and to the contracting representative named above. Questions must be received no later than 02 December, 2019 in order to allow sufficient time to provide a response. Enquiries received after that time may result in an answer NOT being provided.

Feedback and responses related to this RFI are requested no later than 06 December, 2019 in order to allow for its review. Feedback and responses received after this date may not be considered. Due to the urgency of the requirement, there will be no extension to the closing date.

Changes to the RFI may occur and will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tendering System ([buyandsell.gc.ca](http://buyandsell.gc.ca)). PSPC may provide written answers to questions received on or before the RFI closing date by means of RFI addenda and or Questions and Answers Posted on [Buyandsell.gc.ca](http://Buyandsell.gc.ca). Canada asks Respondents to visit [Buyandsell.gc.ca](http://Buyandsell.gc.ca) regularly to check for changes, if any.