

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

1. Advanced Contract Award Notice

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has a requirement for the provision of an Inter-agency Wild Bird Influenza Survey (WBS) to identify the degree of infection in Canada's wild birds, and to identify the viruses present in the wild bird populations of Canada.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to The University of Saskatchewan located at 110 Gymnasium Place, Box 5000 PRO University, Saskatoon SK, S7N 4J8. Before awarding a contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either 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 pre-selected supplier.

2. Background

The CFIA has a requirement to identify the degree of infection in Canada's wild birds, particularly wild ducks, and to identify the viruses present in wild bird populations in Canada. It was based on sampling apparently healthy live wild ducks, geese and other species. Late in 2005, a component of vigilance for highly-pathogenic strains of avian influenza viruses was added to the Survey. This was based on testing wild birds found dead for infection with Influenza viruses. Beginning in 2008 and continuing through to 2010, the Survey was reduced in size and focused exclusively on vigilance for highly-pathogenic virus strains in dead wild birds. Nonetheless, some sampling of live wild birds, especially wild ducks, continued in Canada through collaborations with the Government of the United States of America.

CFIA has been mandated and funded to survey Canadian wild bird population to identify strains of influenza present in Canada's wild bird reservoir. Each spring the CFIA determines the scope of the survey, i.e to survey dead birds, live birds or a combination of both. The decision is made in conjunction with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Centre (CCWHC). The CCWHC is a partnership of federal, provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations with Canada's four veterinary colleges.

The objective is to identify the degree of infection in Canada's wild birds, and to identify the viruses present in the wild bird populations of Canada. This is comprised of a "Dead Bird Survey", to provide vigilance for highly pathogenic viruses, and an option for a "Live Bird Survey", to provide vigilance for low pathogenic viruses.

The Dead Bird Survey is based on the assessment of wild birds found dead, for cause of death and influenza virus infection. The survey commences July 1, 2020, and ends March 31, 2021. The primary purpose of the Dead Bird Survey is the early detection of important strains of influenza "A" viruses. Time intervals between findings and submitted dead birds to laboratories, and between examination of birds and completion of PCR tests and virus characterization are critical.

The Live Bird Survey is based on the assessment of live wild birds for low pathogenicity influenza viruses. If option B is exercised, the vendor will be provided a refined target table and must be cost out separately. The survey commences July 1, 2020 and ends March 31, 2021. Wild ducks are the principal global reservoir of avian influenza viruses and are the source of the low pathogenicity strains that can evolve to become major health threats to animals and humans under certain circumstances. Thus, it is due diligence on the part of the CFIA and the CCWHC to monitor the circulation in Canada of these low pathogenicity viruses and to identify their genetic makeup. The wild birds are captured, fecal and oral-pharyngeal samples are collected, and the birds are released unharmed.

3. Minimum Essential Requirements

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

- Must have an established network with the capacity to collect samples for approximately 2,275 for the "Dead Bird Survey" and approximately 5,650 for the "Live Bird Survey"
- Must be partnered with Federal, Provincial, Territorial governments, agriculture and wild life agencies to ensure collection and sampling of appropriate wild birds
- Must have within its network, the specific veterinary expertise to determine cause of death in a variety of wild bird species.
- Must have the expertise and diagnostic capability and capacity to perform PCR testing and sequencing as required, on the total number of birds identified in each survey, within the time intervals identified.

- Testing and sequencing must be carried out by laboratories trained and recognized as proficient by the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD).

4. Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier

The CFIA has been mandated and funded to survey the Canadian wild bird population to identify strains of influenza present in Canada's wild bird reservoir. Each spring the CFIA determines the scope of the survey re. To survey dead birds, live birds or a combination of both. This decision is made in conjunction with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Centre (CCWHC). The CCWHC is a partnership of federal, provincial and territorial governments and non-government organizations with Canada's four veterinary colleges. The vendor must have facilities and staff distributed across the country capable of collecting and testing the bird population. As a member of the CCWHC, the University of Saskatchewan is the only vendor with the required network of facilities and staff distributed across the country capable of providing this service, and has been doing so since 07-08. As well as having the expertise, diagnostic capability and capacity to perform PCR testing and sequencing, testing and sequencing must be carried out by laboratories trained and recognized as proficient by the CFIA's National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD). Since the network of laboratories must be "recognized by the CFIA's NCFAD Winnipeg Laboratory", the NCFAD is in the unique position of knowing exactly which vendor's have the capability of providing the services described in the Statement of Work. The University of Saskatchewan is the only vendor that can provide the services.

5. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of any Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

6. Period of the proposed contract

The proposed period of the contract is from July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 with five (5) additional one (1) year options.

7. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract, is \$1,608,570.00 CAD (excluding taxes)

8. Suppliers' right to submit a 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.

9. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is June 11, 2020.

10. Inquiries and statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Aimée Legault
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa ON, K1A 0Y9
Telephone: 613-773-7672
E-mail: aimée.legault@canada.ca

11. Policy Information

The statutory and regulatory requirements applicable for this ACAN process are the following:

Government Contracts Regulations (GCRs) – Article 6(d) - “only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract”.

The contract is subject to WTO-AGP