

STANDARD INSTRUCTIONS AND CONDITIONS:

(APPLICABLE TO BID SOLICITATION)

1. Submission of Bids

1.1 It is the Bidder's responsibility to:

- (a) return a signed original of the bid solicitation, duly completed, IN THE FORMAT REQUESTED;
- (b) direct its bid ONLY to the Bid Receiving address specified;
- (c) ensure that the Bidder's name, the bid solicitation reference number, and bid solicitation closing date and time are clearly visible;
- (d) provide a comprehensive and sufficiently detailed bid, including all requested pricing details, that will permit a complete evaluation in accordance with the criteria set out in the bid solicitation.

Timely and correct delivery of bids to the specified bid delivery address is the sole responsibility of the Bidder. The National Research Council Canada (NRC) will not assume or have transferred to it those responsibilities. All risks and consequences of incorrect delivery of bids are the responsibility of the Bidder.

1.2 Bids may be accepted in whole or in part. The lowest or any bid will not necessarily be accepted. In the case of error in the extension of prices, the unit price will govern. NRC may enter into contract without negotiation.

1.3 Bidders who submit a bid agree to be bound by the instructions, clauses and conditions of the bid solicitation and accept the terms and conditions of the resulting contract.

1.4 Bids will remain open for acceptance for a period of not less than sixty (60) days from the closing date of the bid solicitation, unless otherwise indicated by NRC in such bid solicitation.

1.5 While NRC may enter into contract without negotiation, Canada reserves the right to negotiate with bidders on any procurement.

1.6 Notwithstanding the bid validity period stipulated in this solicitation, Canada reserves the right to seek an extension from all responsive bidders, within a minimum of three (3) days prior to the end of such period. Bidders shall have the option to either accept or reject the extension.

1.7 If the extension referred to above is accepted, in writing, by all those who submitted responsive bids, then Canada shall continue immediately with the evaluation of the bids and its approval processes.

1.8 If the extension referred to above is not accepted, in writing, by all those who submitted responsive bids then Canada shall, at its sole discretion: either continue to evaluate the responsive bids of those who have accepted the extension and seek the necessary approvals; or cancel the solicitation; or cancel and reissue the solicitation.

2. Late Bids

2.1 It is NRC policy to return, unopened, bids delivered after the stipulated bid solicitation closing date and time, unless they qualify as a delayed bid as described below.

3. Delayed Bids

3.1 A bid delivered to the specified Bid Receiving area after the closing date and time but before the contract award date may be considered, provided the delay can be proven to have been due solely to a delay in delivery that can be attributed to the Canada Post Corporation (CPC) (or national equivalent of a foreign country). The only pieces of evidence relating to a delay in the CPC system that are acceptable to NRC are:

- (a) CPC cancellation date stamp;
- (b) a CPC Priority Courier Bill of Lading; and
- (c) a CPC Xpresspost Label,

that clearly indicate that the bid was mailed prior to the bid closing date.

Example: If the bid closing date was May 15, 1995, then the CPC cancellation date stamp should read no later than May 14, 1995, to be accepted.

3.2 Please request the postal employee to date-stamp your envelope.

3.3 For bids transmitted by facsimile or commercial telegram, only the date and the time of receipt recorded by NRC at the Bid Receiving number stated in the bid solicitation will be accepted as evidence of a delayed bid.

3.4 Misrouting, traffic volume, weather disturbances, or any other causes for the late delivery of bids are not acceptable reasons for the bid to be accepted by NRC.

4. Postage Meters

4.1 Postage meter imprints, whether imprinted by the Supplier, the CPC or the postal authority outside Canada, are not acceptable as proof of timely mailing. It should be noted that CPC does not normally apply a cancellation date stamp to metered mail; this is usually done only when postage stamps are used.

5. Responses Transmitted by Facsimile or Commercial Telegram

5.1 If you are in doubt that your bid will be delivered on time at the specific location designated for the receipt of the bid, you may use a facsimile or a commercial telegram, unless otherwise instructed in the bid solicitation.

Due to the volume of technical material required for some bids, certain bid solicitations may specify that submissions by facsimile or commercial telegram are not acceptable (e.g. science solicitations).

5.2 Unless otherwise instructed in the bid solicitation, the only acceptable number for responses to bid solicitations issued by NRC headquarters sectors is facsimile number (613) 991-3297.

5.3 If the bidder chooses to submit a facsimile or commercial telegram bid, NRC will not be responsible for any failure attributable to the transmission or receipt of the facsimile bid including, but not limited to the following:

- (a) receipt of garbled or incomplete bid;
- (b) availability or condition of the receiving facsimile equipment;
- (c) incompatibility between the sending and receiving equipment;
- (d) delay in transmission or receipt of the bid;
- (e) failure of the Bidder to properly identify the bid;
- (f) illegibility of the bid; or
- (g) security of bid data.

5.4 Bids submitted by facsimile or commercial telegram will constitute your formal bid and must contain:

- (a) the bid reference number;
- (b) the closing date and time;
- (c) sufficient data to allow evaluation, such as unit prices, country of currency in the event that the bid is submitted in a foreign currency, sales tax, duty, technical data (where applicable) and any deviation(s) from the bid solicitation document.

5.5 For responses transmitted by facsimile or commercial telegram, written confirmation is required within two (2) working days after bid closing, unless otherwise specified in this solicitation. All documents confirming bids should bear the word "CONFIRMATION".

5.6 NRC does not undertake to protect the confidentiality of the transmission of any document sent by facsimile. Vendors concerned with the confidentiality of their documents are advised to submit their proposals in sealed envelopes.

6. Customs Clearance

6.1 It is the responsibility of the Bidder to allow sufficient time to obtain customs clearance, where required, before the scheduled bid closing date and time. Delays related to the obtaining of customs clearance cannot be construed as "undue delay in the mail" and will not be accepted under the Late Bids Policy.

For further information, please contact the Contracting Authority identified in the bid solicitation.

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