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K1A 0S5

**SOLICITATION AMENDMENT  
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION**

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

**Comments - Commentaires**

**Vendor/Firm Name and Address  
Raison sociale et adresse du  
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur**

**Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution**

Defence Science Projects Division/Division des projets  
des sciences de la défense  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10, rue Wellington, 4e étage  
Gatineau  
Quebec  
K1A 0S5

<b>Title - Sujet</b> Arti. Intell & Mac. L.R&D Services	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> W6399-19KH95/B	<b>Amendment No. - N° modif.</b> 002
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> W6399-19KH95	<b>Date</b> 2020-07-03
<b>GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG</b> PW-\$\$\$L-014-38055	
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> 014sl.W6399-19KH95	<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 2020-08-21</b>	
<b>Time Zone</b> Fuseau horaire Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> Jean-Philippe Veilleux	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> 014sl
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (613) 297-4403 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> ( ) -
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b> DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE National Defence Headquarters MGen George R. Pearkes Bldg. 101 Colonel By Drive Ottawa, ON K1A0K2	

**Instructions: See Herein**

**Instructions: Voir aux présentes**

<b>Delivery Required - Livraison exigée</b>	<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/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>

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**AMENDMENT 002 TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) W6399-19KH95/B, WHICH CLOSURES ON AUGUST 21, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M. EDST, IS RAISED TO:**

- 1) Amend section 4.4.3. a) ii. of the RFP**
- 2) provide answers to questions submitted by bidders**

**1. Amend section 4.4.3. a) ii. of the RFP**

**DELETE:** Publications will be evaluated based upon peer reviewed publications produced as a result of work undertaken by the Bidder in the last 5 years as follows:

**INSERT:** Publications will be evaluated based upon peer reviewed publications produced as a result of work undertaken by the Bidder in the last 10 years as follows:

**2. Provide answers to questions submitted by bidders**

QUESTION 1:

Education requirements: AI is a new field and new machine learning / AI libraries are being released every day that provide greater and cutting edge capabilities, currently most degrees don't cover the new advances in AI. Is there a hard limit on a degree to be able to successfully bid? What if I can complete an AWS Machine learning Certification (<https://aws.amazon.com/certification/certified-machine-learning-specialty/>)?

ANSWER 1:

In the interest of fairness, the education requirements will remain as stated in the RFP as these are the bare minimum required to conduct R&D in this field. The purpose of the requirements is to have a depth of expertise and experience in the ML field, thus an AWS Certification will not be accepted.

QUESTION 2:

Value of projects from the past experiences under section 4.2.2: If our proposals for other solicitations issued by Canada are under review, are we allowed to use bid prices from those proposals as the value of those projects?

ANSWER 2:

No. Projects must be ongoing or completed to count as past experience. If the proposal is under review, the project is considered to have not yet begun and will not count towards experience.

QUESTION 3:

To bid successfully, is one person able to take on multiple roles in the project ?

ANSWER 3:

No. One person can only take on one role for the purpose of this evaluation. The purpose of this requirement is to demonstrate depth of personnel and the personnel capacity to take on multiple R&D projects.

QUESTION 4:

In section 1.2.1 of part 1, it says: "The support services are divided into two streams: Software Centric Services and Hardware Centric Services.", then says "Up to two contracts may result from this Request for Proposals". Does that mean a contract will be awarded for the software centric stream, and a separate contract will be awarded for the hardware stream? Should or can proposals target only one stream, or must they address both streams?

ANSWER 4:

The intent is that a contract will be issued for the two streams, either separately or together depending on the outcome of the evaluation. If a Bidder wins both streams, the contract would cover off both types of services. A Bidder can only address one stream per proposal. A bidder can submit two separate proposals, if they wish, to compete for both streams.

QUESTION 5:

Can Canada clarify what is meant in section 4.2.1 of part 4 when it says "Software and Hardware Centric streams [...] will be evaluated separately"? Does that mean the criteria will be evaluated against the software centric stream, then evaluated against the hardware centric stream? If so, must all the mandatory criteria be met for both streams for a bid to be considered responsive? That would result in two point rated scores. Is the score used for evaluation the average of both scores? Or does that mean each proposal should target one stream and that proposals will only compete against other proposals in the same stream?

ANSWER 5:

The bids will be evaluated only against the criteria for the stream for which they are addressing. Notwithstanding, if a bidder is providing bids for both streams, the bids must be separate and will be evaluated stand-alone (i.e., information in one bid will not be used to evaluate the other).

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QUESTION 6:

For point rated criterion PRT 1 (Project Experience), if we submit resources from a subcontractor, would Canada consider projects from the subcontractor to be allowed?

ANSWER 6:

Yes if the subcontractor was working for the bidder at the time the work was completed.

QUESTION 7:

For point rated criterion PRT 1, can we submit projects that are ongoing, but not yet completed?

ANSWER 7:

Yes.

QUESTION 8:

For point rated criterion PRT 2, it says: "Work undertaken by the Bidder's current personnel under a different employer won't be accepted." In the case where we submit resources from a subcontractor, would Canada accept publications produced as a result of work undertaken by that resource while employed by said subcontractor?

ANSWER 8:

Yes, if the subcontractor was working for the bidder at the time the publication was completed and the work was done for the bidder.

QUESTION 9:

Similar to question 8, if one of the submitted resources is a university professor under subcontract (i.e., not employed by the bidder), would Canada accept their academic papers?

ANSWER 9:

Yes, only if the professor was working as a subcontractor to the bidder at the time the publication was completed and the publication was related to the work completed for the bidder.

QUESTION 10:

For point rated criterion PRT 2, it says: "Only the work for which the Bidder owns the Intellectual Property is acceptable." Would Canada consider removing this requirement? Some Canada DND and DRDC projects result in publications, but the associated contracts state that Canada retains the IP resulting from those projects. It seems that excluding such directly related publications, simply because the IP was retained by Canada would reduce the quality of the proposals Canada will receive.

ANSWER 10:

If the publication was written by the bidder's personnel as part of a contract to DND, the publication may be submitted with acknowledgement and confirmation from the DND representative that the bidder wrote the publication.

QUESTION 11:

For point rated criterion PRT 2, do publications have to be written by one of the resources that are submitted on the project, or are publications written by any employee of the bidder accepted?

ANSWER 11:

Any employee would be acceptable, as long as they were working for the bidder at the time the publication was completed.

QUESTION 12:

For point rated criterion PRT 2, would Canada consider removing the following restriction: "Work undertaken by the Bidder's current personnel under a different employer won't be accepted" if published by a resource proposed on the project? Expertise developed by a resource at a different employer is still retained by the resource when they change employer.

ANSWER 12:

No. The intent of PRT2 is to establish the breadth of capability of the bidder, not the individual; therefore, only publications by the bidder are acceptable.

QUESTION 13:

For criterion PRT 2 would Canada consider allowing publications within the last 10 years rather than the last 5 years? There are teams with extensive scientific experience who have been recently working on sensitive projects where publications were not allowed. Such extension will

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allow Canada to improve the pool of bidders and increase the chances of having high quality proposals.

ANSWER 13:

Yes as long as they are directly relevant to the key areas of activity.

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REMAIN  
UNCHANGED**