



## ADVANCED CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

### 1. Advanced 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 Requirement

The Department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has a requirement to upgrade its Geosoft Data Access Protocol (DAP) server from a Windows 2008 system to a new version of the software that is compatible with Windows 2016 and 2019 systems supported by Shared Services Canada (SSC).

The work will involve the following:

- Geosoft Data Access Protocol (DAP) Server Version 12.12.2 as an executable installation file and the license that is required;
- Technical assistance on how to implement software, migrate data and databases from the old server to the new server; and
- Technical support for the maintenance of the server (starting in Fiscal year 2021/2022)

#### 2.1 Background

This software (Geosoft DAP) was last purchased in 2010 and installed shortly thereafter. It has been running on a Windows 2008 system server since 2010 and making the Department's airborne geophysics data discoverable and accessible to the public. Download statistics from 2007 to 2018 show that over 36,000 datasets were downloaded on a yearly basis, on average.

NRCan is still running the software though it is past its support expiry date (2017/12/31). Shared Services Canada (SSC) will decommission the server on which the software is running in 2021 for security reasons, on grounds that it is running on a Windows 2008 system and that security updates have ended for that system. To keep providing the same service (making the Department's airborne geophysics data discoverable and accessible to clients) we need to purchase and install a new version of the software that is compatible with systems supported by SSC, such as Windows 2016 and above. The version of the software we are seeking to purchase, v12.2, is compatible with Windows 2016 and 2019 systems.

An economic assessment conducted by Ernst & Young (Economic Assessment of Geoscience Information, 15 January 2020) estimates that the Department's programs under which airborne geophysics data were collected between 2000 and 2019 generated \$1.22B total economic benefits during the same period. Making data from airborne geophysics surveys publicly discoverable and accessible is a key element to this success as it helps mining and exploration companies focusing on areas of higher and potential to augment their existing knowledge. The Department of Natural Resources' Audit and Evaluation Branch (Evaluation of Targeted Geoscience Initiative Phase 5, April 28 2020) indeed found that industry and other stakeholders discover and



access the Department's airborne geophysics data through the website powered by the Geosoft DAP software, which we are seeking to purchase to maintain the existing service.

## **2.2 Scope of Work**

The Contractor shall provide the following:

- 1 time upgrade
- Technical support – telephone (hotline support) and Web support to address:
  - Identifying and troubleshooting problems
  - Addressing workflow and general use questions
  - Resolving issues during installation, upgrades and license related activities.

## **2.3 Deliverables**

The deliverables are be grouped under the categories, as follows:

- Upgrade services including technical assistance
- Yearly Maintenance Services

### *Technical Assistance:*

- Technical assistance on how to implement software, migrate data and databases from the old server to the new server

### *Upgrade Services:*

- Provide one-time upgrade services

### *Software Maintenance:*

- If a technical problem with the Geosoft software occurs to hardware, firmware or other software configurations, Geosoft must provide the solution to that problem.
- Provide yearly maintenance on the software

## **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:

- Must be the original manufacturer of the Geosoft Data Access Protocol (DAP) Server software and must be a registered trademark;
- Must own the intellectual property to the software;
- Must be able to provide upgrades, support and maintenance to the DAP server software;
- Must be compatible with the Department's archive of airborne geophysical surveys digital data formats (GDB and GRD);



- Must be compatible with Windows 2016 and above system

#### 4. Applicability of the Trade Agreement(s) to the Procurement

Given the dollar value of this requirement, which includes all option periods, this requirement is not subject to any Trade Agreements.

#### 5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The supplier mentioned in Section 10 below is the only known supplier that meets the mandatory criteria set out in Section 3 above.

Should Canada receive a Statement of Capabilities from a supplier that contains sufficient information to indicate this it meets the requirements set forth in this ACAN, a competitive process will be triggered with a technical and financial evaluation methodology of the bids proposed by the potential bidders.

#### 6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception(s) to the [Government Contracts Regulations \(GCRs\)](#) is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6 (d) – only one person/firm is capable of performing the work.

The identified supplier, Seequent Geosoft Inc. is the only one able to meet all of the criteria identified in Section 3 above.

#### 7. Ownership of Intellectual Property

- Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Contractor.

#### 8. Period of the Proposed Contract

The contract is for a period of one (1) year, starting from date of award to September 30, 2021, with up to four (4) additional one-year option periods for maintenance and support, ending September 30, 2025.

#### 9. Cost Estimate of the Proposed Contract

The estimated value of the contract, including options is \$87,500.00 (HST extra).

#### 10. Name and Address of the Pre-Identified Supplier

Seequent Geosoft Inc.  
#810 – 27 Queens Quay West  
P.O. Box 131  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 1A7



### **11. 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.

### **12. Closing Date for a Submission of Statement of Capabilities**

The closing date and time for accepting Statements of Capabilities is: September 18, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

### **13. Inquiries and Submission of Statement of Capabilities**

Inquiries and Statements of Capabilities are to be directed to:

**Valerie Holmes**

Procurement Specialist

Tel: 613-864-8017

Email: [valerie.holmes@canada.ca](mailto:valerie.holmes@canada.ca)