

Questions and Answers

1	Question	In response to the Mandatory Criteria for Task 2, it is indicated that you require resource(s) with formal education to have a minimum of one year experience of <u>due diligence</u> . Given that Task 2 is related to financial desk audits on financial claims, would the Crown confirm that the requirement should not read as “Experience within the past five (5) years, MUST have a minimum of one (1) year experience of <u>financial desk audits on financial claims</u> ”?
1	Answer	That’s correct, it should rather indicate “experience of <u>financial desk audits on financial claim</u> ”.
2	Question	Under the Evaluation Grid Mandatory Criteria M4, it is indicated the following: “Personnel proposed and person-days allocated make sense for the task and provides excellent resourcing for the task”. Is the Crown expecting firms to propose a number of days per resource (person days) for individual tasks? If so, can the Crown provide the scope of work (i.e. number of claims and amounts to be audited) to allow firms to provide such information?
2	Answer	We have decided to remove this Mandatory Criteria. Suppliers do not have to respond to this Mandatory Criteria. Mandatory Criteria M4 will not be considered when evaluating bids.
3	Question	For all tasks, M3 states that a minimum of three project summaries that the bidder’s team delivered must be provided and that Different team members may have different project summaries. Can the Crown confirm if Bidders are expected to provide three project summaries for each proposed team member or if Bidders may provide at least one project per team member and a minimum of three projects overall to fulfill M3?
3	Answer	We need a minimum of three projects overall for the proposed team. Each project must have involved at least one proposed team member.
4	Question	In response to M3, do you require three project summaries per team or per resource?
4	Answer	We require a minimum of three project summaries per team, not per resources.
5	Question	Basis of Selection for the RFSO - Reference: page 12 of 35. To qualify for this RFSO, bidders must demonstrate it is able to comply with the seven mandatory requirements and provide prices in accordance to section 4.2?
5	Answer	That is correct, suppliers must pass all mandatory criteria and they must also provide rates for their proposed resources as per section 4.2. Please also note that we are removing Mandatory Criteria #4 as per answer to question 2 above.

6	Question	How many suppliers will be invited for each Call Up? Is there a minimum number of suppliers invited for each Call Up?
6	Answer	There is no minimum number of suppliers invited; the Crown reserves the right to invite only one supplier at time of call-up (or more).
7	Question	How are the suppliers selected for each Call Up? As this is a Standing Offer agreement, are the suppliers ranked on the basis of lowest per diem rates? If it is the lowest per diem are the per-diem rates averaged or weighted average?
7	Answer	It is not the averaged lowest per-diem or the weighted average. Suppliers will not be ranked on any basis. Rates are being requested for informative purpose and for budgeting purpose and planning only. Suppliers will not be disqualified because of their rates for the issuance of a Standing Offer. However, at time of call-up, rates will be taken into consideration when picking a supplier and will be further reviewed as necessary.
8	Question	What are the possible basis of selection criteria for each Call Up?
8	Answer	<p>Subject to procurement policies, the Crown will reserves the right to respect terms of Modern Treaty regions when selecting suppliers and the intent is to prioritize suppliers from the Modern Treaties regions and from Indigenous suppliers when feasible, but there is no particular order.</p> <p>Also, the Basis of Selection for call-up under \$40k will follow procurement policies and can be issued on a sole-source basis with no particular order.</p>
9	Question	How will qualified suppliers be selected as part of the call-up process (e.g. will they be ranked? Will it be rotational? Will it be a competitive process)?
9	Answer	Please see response to above question. Suppliers will not be ranked and there will be no rotational basis. There could be a competitive process at time of call-up and the basis of selection will be indicated in the competitive process at time of call-up.
10	Question	Considering bidders may propose more than one resource category per task, how will the evaluation of the rates be done? For example, for Task 2 and 3, since an audit report including a signed opinion must be issued, a resource at the Partner level is required as well as an auditor.
10	Answer	Rates will not be evaluated at this time, only proposed resources will be evaluated. That said, the Crown reserves the right to consider and review rates with suppliers as deemed appropriate at time of call-up.
11	Question	How many bidders will Canada qualify as part of this Standing Offer?
11	Answer	There is no minimum and no maximum number of bidders.
12	Question	Will Canada disclose the number of bidders it anticipates qualifying on this standing offer?
12	Answer	We are not anticipating any numbers at this point; there will be no minimum or maximum number of suppliers.

13	Question	Will the Crown expect to qualify a maximum number of firms on the resulting standing offer contract?
13	Answer	At this time, we are not expecting to qualify a maximum (or minimum) number of suppliers.
14	Question	It is our understanding that the Crown is seeking financial consultant services to support the administration of NRCan programs that specifically target communities located in Modern Treaty / CLCA regions. Given the specificities of the Modern Treaty / CLCA regions, we believe it is important that the contractor truly understands the specificities of these regions and program recipients. Would the Crown consider adding a requirement for the contractor to demonstrate experience working on similar types of engagements and working with recipients similar to the ones targeted by the NRCan Programs that target Modern Treaty / CLCA regions, such as the CERRC Program?
14	Answer	We also believe in the importance of a supplier understanding the specification of affected regions and program recipients and we will assess the required understanding and appropriate sensitivity of the supplier at time of call-up (and not at this stage of Standing Offer issuance) as they would differ from one region to another and from one program recipient to another.
15	Question	If bidding on more than one task, are we required to submit one proposal per task or can we submit only one proposal including all tasks?
15	Answer	Please submit one proposal for all tasks. Suppliers will qualify under each tasks separately no matter how many proposals are being submitted.
16	Question	The RFSO document states that ongoing qualification of suppliers is permissible. Is qualification at a quarterly or annual basis?
16	Answer	Qualification is planned to be on an annual basis.
17	Question	Can Canada please confirm the validity period of the standing offer?
17	Answer	The Standing Offer will be refreshed annually and will be valid as long as it is advantageous to the Crown. At this point, there is no end-date to the validity period.
