



**Request for Information
Demande de renseignements**

**RETURN BIDS TO :
RETOURNER LES
SOUMISSIONS A:**

National Research Council Canada (NRC)
Finance and Procurement Services

See herein for bid submission
instructions/

Voir la présente pour les
instructions sur la presentation
d'une soumission

Title/Sujet Antiviral mask or face covering	
Solicitation No./N. de l'invitation 20-58071	Date 15 October 2020
Solicitation Closes/L'invitation prend fin at/à 14 :00 on/le 27 October 2020	Time Zone/Fuseau Horaire EDT
Address Enquiries To/Adresser demandes de renseignements à : Melody.Ellis@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Proposal To:

We hereby offer to sell to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out herein, referred to herein or attached hereto, the goods, services, and construction listed herein and on any attached sheets at the price(s) set out therefor.

Proposition aux:

Nous offrons par la présente de vendre à Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada, aux conditions énoncées ou incluses par référence dans la présente et aux annexes ci-jointes, les biens, services et construction énumérés ici sur toute feuille ci-annexée, au(x) prix indiqué(s).



Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No./N. de telephone Facsimile No./N. de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisé à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date

ANTIVIRAL MASKS OR FACE COVERINGS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) is Canada's largest federal research and development (R&D) organization. The NRC partners with Canadian academia and industry to take research impacts from the lab to the marketplace, where people can experience the benefits. NRC collaborates on R&D projects with a large number of colleges, universities, hospitals and small and large companies; and provides advice and funding to over 8,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) annually. Our integrated partnerships and market-driven focus delivers innovation faster, enhances people's lives and addresses some of the world's most pressing problems. As a key organization of the Canadian Innovation system, we are responsive, creative and uniquely placed to invest in strategic R&D programming that will address urgent or predictable and critical issues for the future of the Canadian nation.

NRC counts over 4,000 employees of which over 2000 are scientists, engineers, technicians and other specialists. NRC has specialized facilities in 179 buildings located on 22 sites in 10 Provinces. The majority of NRC employees are located in Ottawa.

The overall goal of this Request for Information (RFI) is to engage industry and its suppliers in sharing technical information on the technology that is currently available on antiviral masks or face coverings.

NRC is considering to use antiviral masks or face coverings in the future in order to keep its employee safe while on work site.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to engage suppliers to:

- a) Provide industry with an early opportunity to assess, comment and suggest changes to the requirements;
- b) Determine the capability of suppliers to provide for the requirements;
- c) Obtain supplier feedback on any issues that would impact their ability to bid on the resulting Solicitation and/or deliver on Canada's requirements;
- d) Gather industry knowledge, expertise and recommendations with regard to best practices that would increase the success of the project and/or identify any risks that would impact the project.
- e) Enhance competition, access and fairness.

1.3 NATURE OF THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This RFI is not a bid solicitation and will not result in the award of any Contract or Standing Offer nor will this RFI result in the creation of a list of suppliers. Therefore, potential suppliers of any goods and services described in this RFI should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI.

Whether or not a potential supplier responds to this RFI, it will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement process. Also, this RFI will not necessarily result in the procurement of any of the services that it describes. It is simply intended to solicit feedback with respect to its content. Nothing in this RFI shall be construed as a commitment from the National Research Council Canada (NRC). NRC may use any non-proprietary information obtained as part of this review in the preparation of future requirements.

2.0 INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

2.1 NATURE AND FORMAT OF RESPONSES REQUESTED

The department is seeking input and responses to specific questions (refer to Annex A) from the industry and suppliers covering important elements of the requirement prior to proceeding with finalizing its procurement strategy.

Respondents are invited to provide comments regarding the content of Annex A by completing and returning Annex A. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their interpretation of the requirements.

2.2 RESPONSE COSTS

NRC will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred in responding to this RFI.

3.0 TREATMENT OF RESPONSES

3.1 USE OF RESPONSES

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by NRC to develop or modify procurement strategies or any draft documents contained in this RFI. NRC will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. NRC may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

3.2 REVIEW TEAM

A review team composed of representatives of NRC will review the responses. NRC reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

3.3 CONFIDENTIALITY

Respondents should indicate and mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. NRC will handle these portions in a confidential manner in accordance with the Access to Information Act of Canada.

3.4 FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

NRC may, at its discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response. NRC may, at its discretion agree to meet with respondents to provide respondents with the opportunity to present and/or demonstrate their capabilities in relation to this RFI. Respondents' presentations are at no obligation to NRC and respondents will be responsible for all costs associated with NRC's invitation to make a presentation.

4.0 SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONSE

The vendor must provide a contact name, email address and telephone number when submitting their response. In the event that a response is not sufficiently clear, NRC reserves the right to seek additional information at their sole discretion.

4.2 TIME AND PLACE FOR SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Respondents are requested to submit responses by **October 27, 2020, 2 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time**. The review of responses will begin after the date and time mentioned above. Responses received after that date may not be reviewed.

Vendors are requested to submit responses to this RFI using the following e-mail address:
melody.ellis@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

4.3 ENQUIRIES

Only enquiries which clarify the questions asked or feedback requested may be answered with respect to this RFI. All enquiries must be submitted via email to the attention of Melody Ellis at melody.ellis@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

4.4 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Responses to this RFI are requested to be presented in either of the Official Languages of Canada (English or French).

Annex A

RFI for anti-viral face-coverings and masks, particularly effective against SARS-CoV-2. Additional antibacterial or general antimicrobial properties are an asset.

1. What is the filtration performance? Provide documentation.
2. What is the basis of the antiviral claims? Provide documentation, such as scientific research papers/studies.
 - a. What is the active material and what is its method of action?
 - b. Is it a coating or an inherent property of the fabric?
 - c. Has it been tested against coronaviruses including SARS-CoV-2?
 - d. What time frame is required for viral inactivation?
 - e. Is it also anti-bacterial?
3. Is there documentation to support that product is safe to use? Provide documentation.
 - a. Is there validation that it does not contain toxic respirable particles?
 - b. Is there validation that it does not contain any known or suspected skin or respiratory sensitizers as per NIOSH guidelines?
4. This is not a requirement for purchase, but is the product FDA or Health Canada approved?
 - a. If considered a respirator, is it NIOSH certified?
5. This is not a requirement for purchase, but is the product certified as medical grade?
 - a. If yes, according to which standards (Canadian, European and/or FDA)?
 - b. If yes, are there restrictions for its purchase (is priority given to front-line workers)?
6. Is it reusable?
 - a. Can it be washed many times while maintaining its antiviral properties? – Provide documentation.
 - b. What is the suggested washing method?
 - c. Can it be sanitized using UV lights, autoclave or other method while preserving its integrity?
7. If it is single use, are the active material(s) environmentally safe if disposed of in the regular domestic waste stream?
8. Is the performance or safety of the product affected if used in the presence of hazardous materials?
9. Does the product have an adjustable metal nose piece to improve fit and /or adjustable ear loops to provide a comfortable and effective fit?
10. Is it available in more than one size?
11. What is the cost per unit?
12. What is the timeline for availability of the product?
13. Can supply be assured over the next year? Quantities?