

Interim Secure Capability Workstation and Conference rooms

Using EMSEC and STC compliant multi-sea-container installations

Request for Information

Purpose:

Vendors with other Modular format solutions (not sea containers) should also consider responding.

The purpose of this Request for Information is to ask interested companies to provide feedback and recommendations regarding the requirement described. DND is considering purchase of an Interim Secure Capability (ISC) for several locations. The ISC would be made of sea containers used to house either a server room, workstation room or small conference room. In general terms, the 1-wide configurations available are approximately 8X20 feet or 8 X40 feet. 2-wide would be 16X(20 or 40) and 3-wide would be 24X(20 or 40). While the server room needs for a limited deployment can be met using a 1-wide solution, the workstation room might better be served as a 2-wide solution and the conference room as a 3-wide solution. There is a requirement that these rooms meet the required Emissions Security (EMSEC) performance and Sound Transmission Class (STC) based sound attenuation performance.

The objectives of this RFI are to:

- a. Provide industry with general information on the potential scope of work, requirements and potential for contract(s) for ISC installations;
- b. Enable Canada to request information and input from industry; and

Background Information:

When processing classified information, several options exist. If physical distancing measures cannot be put in place, an EMSEC based solution is required. This means that either the information technology systems or the surrounding structure must be EMSEC compliant. In some cases, the cost would be prohibitive to have information technology equipment converted to meet the EMSEC requirement. As such, the only solution is to ensure that the surrounding structure is compliant. Due to shortened time frames and challenges in modifying the surrounding buildings, an equipment-based solution relying on new-manufacture sea containers is being considered.

The physical length of the sea containers is conducive to the requirement for a workstation room or conference room. However, the width is a concern. Users could be spending the better part of their work day in these rooms. As such, a solution that offers 2-wide or 3-wide implementations is needed. This has been further reinforced due to the recent COVID-19 related distancing requirements.

At the same time, the solution must comply to the EMSEC and STC requirements. For Canada, the solution would have to conform to:

- a. ITSG-02, Criteria for the Design, Fabrication, Supply, Installation and Acceptance Testing of Walk-in Radio-Frequency-Shielded Enclosures (www.cse-cst.gc.ca) - these are the strictest implementation of TEMPEST, safeguarding within 1m of systems; and

- b. IC Tech Spec for ICD/ICS 705: sound transmission attenuation standard of Sound Group 4 – STC of 52 (minimum).
 - i. Desired: sound transmission attenuation above STC 52 up to STC of 60.

The sea container construction includes perimeter walls made of metal. The following 3 references from <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/physec-secmat/pubs/index-eng.htm> should be considered, but it is felt that the sea container wall construction would meet the requirements described:

- a. G1-004 - Construction of a Special Discussion Area (08/1998)
- b. G13-01 - Secure Storage Room Guide (07/2013)
- c. G13-02 - Secure Demising Wall Guide (07/2013)

It is envisioned that a workstation room or conference room would be constructed at the OEM facility. It would be assembled in its 2-wide or 3-wide configuration and a testing team from DND would be brought in, to ensure EMSEC and STC conformance. If the tests pass, the solution would be disassembled and shipped to the site. At location, the system would be re-assembled and would be tested again by the DND team, for EMSEC and STC conformance. EMSEC testing in both cases would be done using ITSG-12 Facility Evaluation Procedures.

Some provinces allow shipments up to 24' wide, however, it may be impractical to ship such a large assembly across the country.

To complete the discussion, there will be a requirement for additional modules. These could include 1-wide server rooms that are EMSEC compliant, but do not have to meet the STC requirement. Additionally, there may be a need for a power module, which is entirely COTS (no EMSEC, no STC requirements), in the 100 – 500 kVA range, depending on the number of server, workstation and conference containers being served in aggregate. The purpose of the power module is to provide power conditioning and to provide 30 minutes or so of backup power – enough time for orderly automated shutdown of the server module. The power module may have a requirement for 3-phase input from a generator, in addition to the service mains.

Requested Information

Comment on the:

- a. feasibility of providing 2-wide and 3-wide solutions which meet both the required EMSEC and STC requirements. Identify any concerns specific only to the 20 or 40 foot variants or the workstation or conference room variant;
- b. dual testing concept: at OEM site and at the installation site; and
- c. any other concerns the OEM may have.

Potential Work Scope and Constraints

There is potential for multiple contracts for the provision of EMSEC and STC compliant multi-container installations as a result of potential future solicitations.

The Work may include some or all of the following:

- Provision of equipment;
- Testing of the first article(s) and testing prior to acceptance;

- Provision of training and training materials (safety, operational, and life cycle management);
- Provision of manuals and other Integrated Logistics Support documents; and
- Provision of spares based on provided critical and recommended spares lists.

Legislation, Trade Agreements and Government Policies

The following list is indicative of some of the legislation, trade agreements, and government policies that could impact any follow-on solicitation(s):

- a. World Trade Organization – Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP), Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TransPacific Partnership (CPTPP) may apply to follow-on solicitations;
- b. Defence Production Act: will not apply to follow-on solicitations;
- c. Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITBs): ITBs will not apply to follow-on solicitations;
- d. Controlled Goods Program (CGP): the CGP may not apply to follow-on solicitations
- e. Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity (FCP-EE): the FCP-EE will apply to follow-on solicitations; and
- f. Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements (CLCAs): CLCAs may apply to follow-on solicitations.

Important Notes to Respondents:

Submitting the Response:

Interested respondents may submit their responses to the Contracting Authority identified below. The Contracting Authority for the Contract is:

Tim Harcoff

Tim.harcoff@forces.gc.ca

Format of the Response:

Respondents are asked to provide their response to this RFI as a PDF document that is unprotected (no password required). Responses should include a cover page that includes: the RFI Solicitation number, the full legal name of the Respondent, and the date. Responses should also include a point of contact for the Respondent (name, address, telephone number and email).

Treatment of the Response:

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, Canada may use the information in planning a potential solicitation (or solicitations) for the Work described herein. Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

A review team composed of representatives of the Government of Canada will review the responses. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resource which it deems necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses. Canada may, at its discretion, contact any Respondent to follow up with additional questions

or for clarification of any aspect of a response. Canada may share a draft of a potential RFP or portion(s) thereof with respondents for their feedback, once the drafts are ready. Canada may also publish further RFIs related to this initiative.

Responses will not be returned to the Respondents.

Other Important Notes:

Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on the BuyAndSell.gc.ca website. Canada asks Respondents to visit BuyAndSell.gc.ca regularly to check for changes, if any.

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation(s) or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

Respondents are encouraged to identify, in the information they share with Canada, any information that they feel is proprietary, third party or personal information. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g. in response to a request under the Access of Information and Privacy Act) to disclose proprietary or commercially sensitive information concerning a respondent (for more information: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>).

Respondents are asked to identify if their response, or any part of their response, is subject to the Controlled Goods Regulations.

Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

Respondents will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred by participating in this RFI.

Closing date for the LOI/RFI:

Responses to this RFI are to be submitted to the Contracting Authority identified above, on or before the time listed on the Buy and Sell page for this RFI.