

Replacing the Canadian Defence Information System

Request for Information

Purpose:

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to ask interested companies to provide feedback and recommendations regarding the requirement described. Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) is considering purchasing software to replace the Canadian Defence Information System (CANDIS). CANDIS holds more than 500,000 records. It is used to archive and distribute scientific and technical (S&T) publications to the Department of National Defence and Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF), other government departments, and the public. CANDIS is highly customized and uses aging information technology. There is a requirement to migrate existing content into new software. More modern search, archive, and distribution capabilities are needed.

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 this software acquisition; and,
- b. Enable Canada to request information and input from industry.

Background Information:

Purpose of CANDIS

CANDIS is comprised of 524,046 bibliographic records. There are 48,824 digitized publications in PDF format. The database increases by 2,000 publications every year. CANDIS contains classified and unclassified reports. The main objectives of CANDIS are:

- Catalogue and preserve government publications in defence science and security
- Distribute publications electronically to clients, partners, and the general public
- Search the database to respond to requests for publications in research topics
- Alert clients to new publications supporting knowledge sharing and innovation
- Collect national and international government publications from partners
- Produce bibliographies in S&T topic areas for DRDC personnel and clients
- Maintain a single and secure publication repository in the organization.

Current configuration

The software is permissions-based to safeguard sensitive information and allows access by authorized users. It is a system within a system with five separate applications. This permits DRDC to serve DND/CAF clients, defence contractors, allies, and the general public with only the publications each group is authorized to view for information security reasons. The component of CANDIS that is public facing ([Defence Research Reports](#)) is achieved by pushing out eligible information in a weekly update. The vast majority of the 524,046 bibliographic records and publications are on the department's internal networks with two-step authentication. All CANDIS systems run Novell SuSE Linux SLES 11/SP2 on Intel-

based server hardware (HP DL580, DL380 and DL360). SuSE Linux provides both the XEN virtual host environment as well as the client virtual machines that run the CANDIS application software.

All CANDIS systems utilize OpenText LiveLink Collections Server as the underlying database system. Descriptions of documents (metadata) are stored as structured records (relations or tables) that support fast access and searchable text fields through a web-based applications interface. Client virtual machines include both backend database engines and several different web server front-end processes. The database and user interface were highly customized.

Business requirements

It is time to modernize the application, increase the impact of defence science and security publications, provide greater capabilities for the modern knowledge worker, and streamline business processes for archiving and distribution. DRDC is seeking:

- A modern and intuitive software to catalogue and distribute publications
- Academia style capabilities such as metadata and digital object identifiers
- Functionality to import and export data, produce system reports, audit trails, and statistics
- A bilingual interface consistent with Official Languages and web accessibility policies.
- Integration of existing publications preserving the integrity of the data.
- Robust information security measures to manage unclassified and classified information in accordance with law, policy, and directive.
- Migration and stand down of the old system with minimal downtime to DRDC.
- Technical support and on-going maintenance and development to meet organizational needs.

Requested Information:

Comment on the:

- a. Commercial off the shelf solutions available for archiving and distributing publications
- b. Data migration issues that may present with legacy software projects of this nature
- c. Access control and permission based solutions to maintain information security
- d. Multi-language interface and web accessibility options for DRDC
- e. Software features to optimize collection management and distribution of publications
- f. Feasibility of storing both publications and datasets produced by the S&T program
- g. Feasibility of a sandbox for DRDC to test and evaluate software
- h. Ease of interoperability with other software for federated searching
- i. Industry standard projections for the timeframe to replace CANDIS from project initiation to close out
- j. Any other concerns the replacement system may have.

Potential Work Scope and Constraints:

The Work may include some or all of the following:

- Provision of software;

- Customization of software for the Government of Canada common look and feel;
- Testing of the software prior to acceptance;
- Data migration from legacy systems;
- Provision of training and training materials;
- Technical support and on-going maintenance and development.

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.