



## SHARED SERVICES CANADA (SSC)

### Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) for Government of Canada Network Services (GCNS) Procurement Process

ITQ No.	R000076631	Date	February 2, 2021
Amendment No.	007	GETS Reference No.	PW-20-00939000

Issuing Office	Shared Services Canada 180 Kent Street, 13 <sup>th</sup> Floor Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6		
Contracting Authority (The Contracting Authority is SSC's representative for all questions and comments about this document.)	Name	Daniel Ellsworth	
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Closing Date and Time	February 26, 2021 @ 02:00 PM		
Time Zone	Eastern Standard Time (EST)		

**INVITATION TO QUALIFY AMENDMENT NO. 007**

ITQ Amendment no. 007 is raised:

- 1) To identify key dates;
- 2) To answer questions posed by the potential respondents;
- 3) To extend the deadline for submitting questions;
- 4) To extend the pre-submission deadline; and
- 5) To extend the ITQ closing date.

<b>Milestone</b>	<b>Original Date</b>	<b>Revised Date</b>
ITQ release date	December 21, 2020	completed
ITQ Briefing Session	January 8, 2021	completed
Pre-bid submission date	January 22, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST)	January 29, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#1) February 5, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#2) February 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#7)
Last day for Questions and Comments	January 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST)	February 2, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#2) February 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#7)
ITQ closing date and time	February 12, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST)	February 19, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#1) February 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#7)

**Question 33:**

“GC has engaged into a modernization and digital transformation journey with the objective to (i) effectively deliver services to Canadians through fast, secure and reliable networks with the ability to access services from anywhere, at any time, regardless of the demand and circumstances; (ii) support modern services such as cloud, video and voice services and (iii) improve connectivity between departmental and enterprise networks to enterprise data centres, the cloud and the Internet.

Respondent believes some of the specific requirements as written include limitative criteria for demonstrating experience that are not relevant in the context of the new technologies that GC would want to consider in its modernization. Such criteria might, furthermore, diminish or limit SSC’s ability to achieve the above objectives.

For a simple point-to-point network between two sites, in SSC terminology would SSC’s definition of this be a CNS for the WAN piece and two BAN’s for the two accesses at each building location ? ie CNS + BNS + BNS ?”

**Answer 33:**

**The Services in each Stream are independent of one another. For example, a BANS could be provisioned for a site without having a CNS. A BANS could also be provisioned for a site to interface with a CNS. Canada will not prescribe a definition for a point to point circuit.**

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**Question 34:**

“We appreciate the extension provided for the pre-bid submission date offered with Amendment 2.

However, we still have concerns about the date to submit in correlation to the clarification of questions. SSC GCNS has been open for questions from vendors and several questions have been asked that have not yet been answered. The answers may have an impact on, amend or modify the Mandatory requirements currently outlined in the ITQ. These answers may also require the Respondents to modify and/or adjust the choice of reference client and current content of the potential references to meet any amendments made to the mandatory requirements. Any amendment will also require respondents to go back to vendor references and coordinate permission with reference clients for the release of the references.

To allow for the appropriate time for respondents and their reference customers to adequately react to any changes or amendments to the requirements and allow the necessary time to review with reference customers, we would like to request an extension of two weeks to deliver a pre-bid for SSC's review from the date answers and any amendments to the current mandatory requirements are released by SSC.”

**Answer 34:**

**The deadline for submitting questions is hereby extended to February 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).  
The pre-bid submission deadline is hereby extended to February 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST).  
The ITQ Closing date is hereby extended to February 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).**

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**Question 35:**

“We anticipate that, like most bids, there may be follow on questions associated to the initial set of answers still to be released by SSC. There appears to be a short period of time allocated for the revised timeline in Amendment 2.

We would like to propose the following:

1. Last day for Questions: Feb 2.
2. SSC provides Answers to questions by Feb 9.
3. As per the typical SSC process, we assume SSC will allow time for questions to be asked associated with any resulting answers from the first round of questions. We would like to request that SSC provide an additional one week for vendors to ask qualifying questions on first round answers. This would make the final set of question period to end Feb16 , 2021.
4. The process would also need to allow for SSC to have one week to provide responses to the second round of clarifying questions. This would take the schedule to February 23, 2021.
5. We request that from the time Q&A concludes, that one week be provided to allow bidders to write up the pre-bid and gain approval from the reference clients. This would take the pre-bid to March 2 , 2021.
6. We would like to request that SSC provide feedback on the pre-bid within one week of receiving it. This would bring it to March 7, 2021.
7. Upon completion of pre-bid feedback (assuming all feedback will be provided to all prebid submissions at the same time) we are requesting SSC allow bidders two weeks to complete their final submission which would bring the estimated closing date to March 23, 2021.

By allowing the necessary time SSC will obtain increased quality and value through the bid process.”



**Answer 35:**

The deadline for submitting questions is hereby extended to February 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).  
The pre-bid submission deadline is hereby extended to February 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST).  
The ITQ Closing date is hereby extended to February 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).

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**Question 36:**

“The current amendment 2 indicates that the last day for questions to be asked is no February 2, 2021 yet the prebid has only been extended to February 5, 2021. This only allows SSC 3 days to get the question, consider the answers and respond the vendor community. The respondents are then required to consider the answers and modify their responses to address any changes associated with the answers.

Will SSC consider allowing 2 weeks from the time of receipt of final answers from SSC to obtain the necessary approvals from reference clients to submit the pre bid. Please confirm.”

**Answer 36:**

The deadline for submitting questions is hereby extended to February 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).  
The pre-bid submission deadline is hereby extended to February 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST).  
The ITQ Closing date is hereby extended to February 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).

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**Question 37:**

Due to the complexity of the requirements, we would like to request for 2 week extension.

**Answer 37:**

The deadline for submitting questions is hereby extended to February 9, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).  
The pre-bid submission deadline is hereby extended to February 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST).  
The ITQ Closing date is hereby extended to February 26, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).

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**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME.**

