



SHARED SERVICES CANADA (SSC)

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

ITQ No.	R000076631	Date	February 12, 2021
Amendment No.	012	GETS Reference No.	PW-20-00939000

Issuing Office	Shared Services Canada 180 Kent Street, 13 th 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	March 5, 2021 @ 02:00 PM		
Time Zone	Eastern Standard Time (EST)		

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AMENDMENT NO. 012

ITQ Amendment no. 012 is raised:

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

Milestone	Original Date	Revised Date
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) February 19, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#12)
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) Complete
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) March 5, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#12)

Question 55:

“With the extension to the Pre-Bid date and delay in obtaining feedback on the Pre-Bids, would CANADA please consider extending the deadline for the responses to the Invitation to Qualify? We respectfully request the deadline be moved to March 8th, 2021.”

Answer 55:

**The pre-bid submission deadline is hereby extended to February 19, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST).
The ITQ closing date is hereby extended to March 5, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST).**

Question 56:

“If we submit a response to this ITQ as one vendor (i.e. no joint venture) and are awarded status of Qualified Respondent, will this exclude us from answering future RFSO, RFSA, or RFPs as a joint venture should the scope necessitate a joint partnership?”



Answer 56:

If a Qualified Respondent qualifies for a stream on their own (ie. no joint venture), they would not be excluded from bidding on future GCNS solicitations, within that same stream, as a joint venture with another QR should they deem it necessary to do so.

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Question 57:

“Security Clearance Level of Respondent.

Our legal name has changed since we first received our security clearance certification. Is this acceptable if we are still the same legal entity? If we wish to begin the process of applying for a higher security clearance will SSC sponsor us?”

Answer 57:

As per the GCNS ITQ, please ensure that the security clearance matches the legal name of the Respondent. If it does not, the security clearance is not valid for the Respondent.

The lack of a valid security clearance will not prevent the respondent from submitting a response to the ITQ nor will it result, in and of itself, in the respondent’s ITQ response being disqualified. A valid security clearance is however required before any work can be performed for Canada.

The respondent is advised to take immediate action to ensure that they obtain the correct level of security clearance and that it is associated with their legal name. Respondents are encouraged to begin the security clearance process as soon as possible. More information can be found at: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/organisation-organization/securite-security-eng.html>

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Questions 58:

“As identified in a number of Q&As (eg Q&A 30), some clients prefer to not to have their contact information provided as they are senior level resources or are focused critical business issues. In a number of previous ITQs (GPAS, EBVS, etc), Canada has accepted the reference client’s request to contact the Bidder’s representative who will coordinate a date/time for Canada to contact the client reference contract. We request that Canada allow this process in consideration of client reference’s time and schedules.”

Answer 58:

As per answer 30, it is not acceptable for the respondent to be the project reference or to act as the point of contact to reach the project reference.

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Questions 59:

“If a vendor chooses not to respond to a specific GCNS Stream at this time, will Canada allow them to qualify and be added to that specific GCNS Stream and subsequently participate in the associated SO/SA at a later date?”



Answer 59:

As per 2.1.2, “Respondents who do not successfully qualify at the ITQ Phase will not be able to participate in any subsequent procurement phases for Government of Canada Network Services.”

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ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME.

