



SHARED SERVICES CANADA (SSC)

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

ITQ No.	R000076631	Date	March 4, 2021
Amendment No.	018	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	
	Telephone No.	613-324-6422	
	Email Address	ssc.gc-network-services-gc-services-reseautiques.spc@canada.ca	
	Postal Address	180 Kent Street, 13 th Floor Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B5	
Closing Date and Time	April 6, 2021 @ 02:00 PM		
Time Zone	Eastern Standard Time (EST)		

INVITATION TO QUALIFY AMENDMENT NO. 018

ITQ Amendment no. 018 is raised:

- 1) To identify key dates; and
- 2) To answer questions posed by the potential respondents.

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) February 26, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#16) March 12, 2021 @ 11:59 PM (EST) (AMD#17)
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) completed
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) April 6, 2021 @ 2:00 PM (EST) (AMD#17)

Question 71:

“Below the question and response from the Amendment 005.

Question 9: “The services outlined in streams 2, 3 and 4 of this ITQ are all available through the new NSSC vehicle, therefore why are these services being asked for in this GCNS? We request that these 3 streams be removed from GCNS.”

Answer 9: The services specified in the GCNS ITQ are not available as Managed Services through the Network Solutions Supply Chain (NSSC) contract vehicle. All GCNS services include the provision of telecommunications services (e.g. lines, circuits, transport) which are not available from the NSSC Contract.

Canada’s response for not utilizing the current NSSC supply vehicle as opposed to the proposed GCNS for stream 2, 3, 4 stated the respective streams include the provision of telecommunications services (e.g. lines, circuits, transport).



Would Canada please provide additional details on where is outlined in the ITQ. The inclusion of telecommunication services (e.g. lines, circuits, and transport) would severely restrict potential suppliers from moving forward in the RRR phase for these streams. We recommend Canada remove at a minimum streams 2 and 3 from the GCNS and use the NSSC vehicle which already has many qualified network IT network service vendors. In addition, SSC met with all NSSC holders in late 2020 and outlined how the NSSC would be the vehicle for the network and edge modernization and provided the NSSC suppliers two documents: (1) NSSC AGREEMENT HOLDER INFORMATION DAY: NETWORK MODERNIZATION dated May 2020 and NSSC SUPPLIER INFORMATION DAY: EDGE NETWORK MODERNIZATION PROJECT dated May 2020. These documents clearly outline how SSC would be using the NSSC vehicle for network and edge modernization.”

Answer 71:

Question 9 was answered in Amendment 004.

With the exception of Stream 3, the Managed Services for the GCNS ITQ require the implementation of telecommunications lines/circuits which are not available from the NSSC contract. Please refer to the definitions for each service which identify the inclusion of telecommunications line/circuits in article 1.8.3 of the ITQ, in section 1.8 Terminology.

Canada intends to use both the NSSC and GCNS procurement vehicles and views these as complementary. Where there may be some overlap in some Streams, Canada is not restricted to using a single procurement instrument to acquire a service.

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Question 72:

1.6.2 Canada intends to establish individual or combined solicitations to establish Contracts, Standing Offers (SOs) and/or Supply Arrangements (SAs) for:

- b) Stream 2: Building Access Network Service (BANS) with Respondents that qualify from this ITQ as Building Access Network Service Suppliers (BANSS);

1.8 Terminology

Building Access Network (BAN) - An Access Network and/or LAN Service.

Can Canada please comment as to why LAN Services are included in this ITQ? Is this requirement not addressed in the existing NSSC contract?

Answer 72:

With the exception of Stream 3, the Managed Services for the GCNS ITQ require the implementation of telecommunications lines/circuits which are not available from the NSSC contract. Please refer to the definitions for each service which identify the inclusion of telecommunications line/circuits in article 1.8.3 of the ITQ, in section 1.8 Terminology.

Canada intends to use both the NSSC and GCNS procurement vehicles and views these as complementary. Where there may be some overlap in some Streams, Canada is not restricted to using a single procurement instrument to acquire a service.

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Question 73:

“This is a follow up to question 28. At the industry consultation with Technation (ITAC) last night we were directed by Senior SSC management to re-ask the question to allow affiliate and parent company references for this ITQ. Given that SSC will benefit from the standard practices and experiences shared across complex corporate structures we would like to request that SSC allow references to be used from the bidder and North American affiliates and parent companies.”

Answer 73:

Please delete article 1.9.1 in its entirety:

1.9.1 “Definition of Respondent:

In the ITQ, “Respondent” means the person or entity (or, in the case of a joint venture, the persons or entities) submitting a response. It does not include the parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates of the Respondent, or its subcontractors.”

And insert the following as article 1.9.1:

1.9.1 “Definition of Respondent:

In the ITQ, “Respondent” means the person or entity (or, in the case of a joint venture, the persons or entities) submitting a response. It does not include the respondent’s subcontractors.”

For the purposes of this ITQ only, references from a parent company or North American affiliates will be accepted. This does not necessarily warrant however, that references from parent companies or North American affiliates will be accepted in subsequent solicitation phases of this procurement process.

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Question 74:

“The answers provided to questions 67 and 68 in Amendment #15 (that allow a supplier A and B to be part of multiple bids) contravenes the new clause 4.7.2 below:

“Each Respondent (including related entities) will be permitted to submit one response to the ITQ. If a Respondent or any related entities participate in more than one Response, (participating means being part of the Respondent, not being a subcontractor), Canada will provide those Respondents with 2 FGWDs to identify the single Response to be considered by Canada. Failure to meet this deadline may result in all the affected responses being disqualified or in Canada choosing, at its discretion, which of the responses to evaluate”.

Will Canada please clarify?”

Answer 74:

A respondent can only submit one response to the ITQ. A supplier however can submit a response to the ITQ on their own as a respondent and they can also submit a response as part of a joint venture with another supplier, forming a separate and distinct respondent entity, as well.

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Question 75:

“Can two vendors submit a joint qualification together without it being a joint venture?”

Answer 75:

No. As per article 1.9.2 of the ITQ:

1.9.2 Legal Capacity:

The Respondent must have the legal capacity to contract. If the Respondent is a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporate body, the Respondent must provide, if requested by the Contracting Authority, any requested supporting documentation indicating the laws under which it is registered or incorporated, together with the registered or corporate name of the Respondent and its place of business. This also applies to each entity submitting a response as a joint venture.

Two vendors can only submit a response together if they are a joint venture.

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ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN THE SAME.

