

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has a requirement for services to eradicate kudzu (*Pueraria montana*) an invasive plant in the Southwestern Ontario region. The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to **Cain Vegetation Inc.** located in Acton, Ontario, Canada. Before awarding a contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the pre-selected supplier.

Background

Kudzu, *Pueraria montana*, is a perennial, deciduous, woody vine species with stems that extend 10 to 30 m in length and up to 8 cm in diameter. Kudzu plants have both fibrous and tuberous roots, which can extend up to 4 m deep and can grow up to 18 cm in diameter and up to 180 kg in weight. Kudzu is native to Asia and produces vigorous, viney, leafy stems that completely cover a site with herbaceous growth. The plants smother all vegetation in an area, including shrubs and trees, with dense, heavy foliage.

The site is along the back edge of an agricultural property, along the north shore of Lake Erie and the east and west ends of the site are vegetated by forests. Kudzu has infested approximately 5,200 sq. m (0.5 hectares, 1.2 acres), 3,400 sq. m of which is on an open slope with the steepest point having a 97% grade which would be prone to erosion. The CFIA is seeking services for implementation of eradication measures for kudzu, including devegetation, revegetation and maintenance of slope integrity on site.

Minimum Essential Requirements

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- 1) A Master's Degree in Biology or related biological field, ecology, environmental studies, plant biology, including having studied the physiology of invasive plants similar to kudzu in order to understand how it spreads and how to effectively control and remove it.
- 2) As the CFIA is under strict timelines to ensure timely eradication and as the seasonal weather will have a direct and negative impact on CFIA's success, the supplier must be prepared to begin work immediately.

- 3) This being the first occurrence of kudzu that requires the CFIA's response, the supplier must have experience in having eradicated and rehabilitated similar types of weed/vines/vegetation in environmentally fragile and complex locations.
- 4) The supplier must have:
 - Experience in similar complex rehabilitation projects, including devegetation and revegetation, using indicators to assess success
 - Experience and knowledge of procedures for maintaining slope integrity, minimizing of erosion and established worker safety procedures/training (OHS-Occupational Health Safety) due to the extreme slope of the location
 - Knowledge of this environmentally sensitive site (location, characteristics, soil texture) and the biological background of kudzu life cycle, plant morphology and invasiveness

Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier

The project includes devegetation, revegetation and maintenance of slope integrity, on the 0.5 hectare site. This being the first occurrence of kudzu and as the season will have a direct and negative impact on success, the CFIA is under strict timelines to ensure timely eradication.

Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract **consists of material subject to copyright.**

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the Contracting Authority identified in this Notice on or before the closing date of this Notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

The proposed contract is for a period of (2) two years, from April 2021 to March 2023 with 2 options to extend between April 2023 to March 2025.

The estimated value of the contract, including options is \$81,400.00 applicable taxes extra.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is March 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. (EDT).

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Ashley Bennett
Procurement Officer
Canadian Food Inspection Agency

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Policy Information

The statutory and regulatory requirements applicable for this ACAN process are the following:

Government Contracts Regulations (GCR) – Section 6(d)

“only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract”