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Bid Receiving - PWGSC / Réception des soumissions -
TPSGC

11 Laurier St. / 11, rue Laurier

Place du Portage, Phase III

Core 0B2 / Noyau 0B2

Gatineau

Québec

K1A 0S5

Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

**SOLICITATION AMENDMENT
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION**

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Linguistic Services Division / Division des services
linguistiques

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière

10, rue Wellington, 5e étage

Gatineau

Québec

K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet RFP - Interpretation Services	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EN960-212323/C	Amendment No. - N° modif. 001
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client 20212323	Date 2021-04-14
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$ZF-508-39348	
File No. - N° de dossier 508zf.EN960-212323	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT on - le 2021-05-06 Heure Avancée de l'Est HAE	
F.O.B. - F.A.B.	
Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Boyer, Tania	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 508zf
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (613) 858-9232 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date



PUBLIC SERVICES AND PROCUREMENT CANADA (PSPC)

AMENDMENT No. 001 TO THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

FOR THE DIRECTORY OF SUPPLIERS FOR PARLIAMENTARY AND CONFERENCE INTERPRETATION SERVICES IN OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

ON BEHALF OF THE TRANSLATION BUREAU

THIS AMENDMENT 001 IS RAISED TO:

- 1.0 Respond to questions received regarding the RFP, as detailed in Section 1.0, below;
- 2.0 Modify the RFP, as detailed in Section 2.0, below; and
- 3.0 Confirm the Bidders' Conference, as detailed in Section 3.0 below.

1.0 Respond to questions regarding the RFP:

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>Q.1 Part 6 - Security Requirements of the RFP.</p> <p>What are the security requirements for Stream 1 – Conference Interpretation Services?</p>	<p>A.1. There is no mandatory security requirement to qualify under Stream 1 - Conference Interpretation Services. However, some conference interpretation tasks may require a security clearance. If this is the case, the contractors and resources proposed by the contractor must hold permanently, during the execution of the contract, a valid Designated Organization Screening (DOS) at the Reliability level or a Facility Security Clearance (FSC) at the Secret or Top Secret level,, issued by the Contract Security Program (CSP) of PSPC to have access to Protected A or Protected B information as indicated in in article 7.3.1 – Mandatory Technical Requirements of the Resulting contract clauses and the requirements will be specified in each tasks authorization.</p> <p>Bidders may request that PSPC consider sponsoring their organization for the initial DOS certification. This request can be submitted by email at any time to the following address:</p> <p>TPSGC.PAOutilInterpretation-APTtoolInterpretation.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca</p> <p>If sponsorship is anticipated, Bidders are encouraged to contact PSPC as soon as possible so that the process can begin.</p> <p>The security requirements have been modified in accordance with section 2.0 below to clarify compliance with Stream 1.</p>
<p>Q.2 Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses, Article 7.3.2 Reliability.</p> <p>Does this Designated Organization Screening (DOS) requirement apply to conference interpretation?</p>	<p>A.2 No, the DOS certification is not required for Stream 1 – Conference Interpretation Services, please refer to A.1 above for more details on the requirements for Stream 1.</p>
<p>Q.3 Part 6 - Security Requirements of the RFP.</p> <p>What are the security requirements for Stream 2 – Parliamentary Interpretation Services?</p>	<p>A.3 For Stream 2 – Parliamentary Interpretation Services, the Contractor and resources proposed by the contractor must, at all times during the performance of the Contract hold a valid Facility Security Clearance (FSC) at the level of Secret or Top Secret, issued by the Contract Security Program</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	<p>(CSP) of PSPC to have access to Confidential, Secret or Top Secret information as indicated in in article 7.3.3 – Secret and article 7.3.4 Top Secret of the resulting contract clauses.</p> <p>Security clearances operate in stages, it can be compared to a stairway where you have to climb all the steps. The initial step is the DOS, so an organization that wishes to obtain a FSC must therefore have a DOS certification by default, it is the same at the Top Secret level. An organization with Top Secret level must have a DOS, a FSC at the Secret level and so on.</p> <p>To reduce the administrative burden of evaluating submissions, we will accept the certification number for the FSC only (since VOD is acquired at the first step).</p> <p>Bidders must hold the FSC for Secret or Top Secret Level before contract award and are requested to provide their FSC certification number by completing the Attachment A - Technical Evaluation, Section 2. List of Proposed Resources.</p> <p>If you hold a FSC at the Secret level and you wish to have access to Task Authorizations that require Top Secret level of security, you will need to ask PSPC to sponsor your application to increase your security clearance to a higher level. Bidders may request that PSPC consider sponsoring their organization to increase their security clearance. This request can be submitted by email at any time to the following address:</p> <p>TPSGC.PAOutilInterpretation-APTToolInterpretation.PWGSC@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca</p> <p>If sponsorship is anticipated, bidders are encouraged to contact PSPC as soon as possible so that the process can begin.</p>
<p>Q.4 Attachment A - Technical Evaluation of the RFP</p> <p>It's not necessary to attach the résumé with the submission?</p>	<p>A.4 No, it is not necessary to attach the résumé with the submission. On the other hand, as stipulated in article 7.1.3 – Task Authorization – Attribution of Work, the résumé will be requested so that work may be attributed in exceptional circumstances, based on a specific subject or client or based on the Contractor's specific education, experience or knowledge.</p>
<p>Q.5 Would it be possible to publish the RFP documents and any other related modifications in Word format, not ZIP or PDF, to facilitate opening and processing of documents by bidders please?</p>	<p>A.5 Unfortunately, it is not possible to add the RFP in an editable version on the buyandsell.gc.ca site.</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
	<p>However, attachments in editable format to respond to the RFP are already under the Attachments section of the Tender Notice page.</p>
<p>Q.6 Part 1 - Transition to an Electronic Purchasing Solution of the RFP.</p> <p>What do you mean by Electronic Purchasing Solution? What kind of shape could it take? Does this imply expenses for the interpreters (software, subscriptions, etc.)?</p>	<p>A.6 Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has launched a project to deploy a modern electronic procurement (EPS) solution in the cloud. We are bringing federal procurement online and changing the way government and suppliers interact to buy and sell goods and services. Procurement practices will become accessible and less administratively burdensome, while also promoting greater competition and including practices that encourage the achievement of our economic policy objectives. It will be easier and faster for suppliers, including small and medium-sized businesses, to do business with the government. The EPS will also help improve the quality of the data.</p> <p>As mentioned in section 1.15 of the RFP, during the period of the contract, Canada could transition to the EPS in order to more efficiently process and manage individual contracts for all services applicable to the contract.</p> <p>If the situation arises, Canada will provide the supplier with 3 months notice to allow them to take the necessary steps to integrate the contract into the EPS. The notice will include a detailed information package outlining the requirements, as well as relevant guidance and support. There will be no additional cost to the provider for registering and using the EPS.</p>
<p>Q.7 Attachment B – Certifications of the RFP</p> <p>In accordance with the integrity provisions of the Standard Instructions, all bidders must submit with their bid, if applicable, the Integrity Declaration Form available on the Integrity - Declaration Form website. Please confirm that interpreters do not need to complete this form if they have not, within the past three years, been charged or convicted of an offense listed in the Ineligibility and Suspension Policy.</p>	<p>A.7 PSPC confirms that the Integrity Declaration Form is not mandatory if it does not apply to the supplier.</p> <p>Please see the following link to verify if any of the conditions apply to you: Integrity - Declaration Form - The Government of Canada's Integrity Regime - Accountability - PSPC (tpsqc-pwgsc.gc.ca).</p> <p>If no conditions apply, only write under this section that you do not meet any of the criteria and that these provisions do not apply to you.</p>
<p>Q.8 Article 7.1.3 Task Authorization – Attribution of Work of the Resulting Contract Clauses</p> <p>On the other hand, a contractor from Pool 2 with a green quality index will not receive a job offer before a contractor from Pool 1 with a yellow quality index. How does this clause help promote the quality of the service offered? Please answer the question other than quoting section 7.1.3. I consider that the priority of pool 1 should only exist</p>	<p>A.8 The attribution of work criteria were determined with the freelance interpreter community during a full-day facilitated session in October 2018. For general assignments that do not require specialized knowledge or experience, the quality is considered after language combination, security clearance, professional domicile and availability. All interpreters accredited by the Translation Bureau are considered fully capable to provide quality service under the working conditions specified in the RFP.</p>

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
<p>within a single color (green 1 takes precedence over green 2) and not between colors as shown here.</p>	
<p>Q.9 Article 7.10 Discretionary Audit of the Resulting Contract Clauses</p> <p>Any firm-priced element, firm time rate, firm overhead rate, or firm salary multiplier for which the Contractor has provided a "most favoured customer" certification. The purpose of such audit is to determine whether the Contractor has charged anyone else, including the Contractor's most favoured customer, lower prices, rates or multipliers, for like quality and quantity of goods or services.</p> <p>What is the legal basis for this clause?</p>	<p>A.9 At its discretion, Canada may audit the accounts of a supplier to ensure the fair and optimal use of taxpayers' financial resources in accordance with section 7.10 1-d of the RFP. Such verification could arise if there are any doubts about the integrity of the supplier's billing before or after a payment.</p>

2.0 Modify the RFP as follows:

AT	DELETE	INSERT
<p>Article 6.1 – Security Requirements of the RFP</p>	<p>6.1 Security Requirements</p> <p>Before award of a contract, the following conditions must be met:</p> <p>a) The Bidder must hold a valid organization security clearance as indicated in Part 7 – Resulting Contract Clauses.</p> <p>b) The Bidder's proposed individuals requiring access to classified or protected information, assets or sensitive work sites must meet the security requirements as indicated in Part 7 – Resulting Contract Clauses.</p> <p>c) The Bidder must provide the name of all individuals who will require access to classified or protected information, assets, or sensitive work sites.</p>	<p>6.1 Security Requirements</p> <p>1. Contracts awarded as a result of this RFP may be subject to the Security Requirements Check Lists (SRCL) specified in each Task Authorization as indicated in section 7.3 Security Requirements of the Resulting contract clauses.</p> <p>The following conditions must be met before awarding a contract:</p> <p>a) For Stream 1 - Conference Interpretation Services: No mandatory security requirement is required. However, some conference interpretation tasks may require a security clearance. If this is the case, the contractor and resources proposed by the contractor must, must permanently hold, during the execution of the contract, a valid Designated Organization Screening (DOS) at the Reliability level or a Facility Security Clearance (FSC) at the Secret or Top Secret level, issued by the Contract Security Program (CSP) of PSPC to have access to Protected and/or Classified information as indicated in 7.3.1 Mandatory Technical Criteria of the Resulting contract clauses.</p>

AT	DELETE	INSERT
		<p>b) For Stream 2 - Parliamentary interpretation services: The contractor and resources proposed by the contractor must, at all times during the performance of the Contract hold a valid Facility Security Clearance (FSC) at the level of Secret or Top Secret, issued by the Contract Security Program (CSP) of PSPC to have access to Classified information as indicated in in article 7.3.3 – Secret and article 7.3.4 Top Secret of the resulting contract clauses.</p> <p>c) The Bidder must provide the name of all individuals who will require access to classified or protected information, assets, or sensitive work sites, by completing Attachment A - Technical Evaluation in Section 2. List of proposed resources.</p>
<p>Article 7.3.1 Mandatory Technical Criteria of the Resulting Contract Clauses</p>	<p>7.3.1 Mandatory Technical Criteria</p> <p>There is a security requirement applicable to the Contract:</p> <p>a) For parliamentary interpretation services, the Contractor must hold a valid security clearance at the level of SECRET or TOP SECRET.</p>	<p>7.3.1 Mandatory Technical Criteria</p> <p>There are security requirements applicable to the Contract:</p> <p>a) For Stream 1 - Conference interpretation services, the contractor may be required to hold a RELIABILITY, SECRET or TOP SECRET security clearance. Some conference interpretation tasks may require a security clearance. If this is the case, the security requirements will be specified in each task authorization.</p> <p>b) For Stream 2 - Parliamentary interpretation services, the Contractor must hold a valid security clearance at the level of SECRET or TOP SECRET. The security requirements will be specified in each task authorization.</p>

3.0 Confirmation of the Bidders' Conference on April 21, 2021.

PSPC received a sufficient number of registration forms from bidders to host a conference. This conference will take place via WebEx videoconference on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 and the conference will run from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. EDT.

There is still time to register, Bidders are therefore requested to complete the registration form for the Bidders' Conference included under Attachment "D" and submit it to the Contracting Authority as soon as possible, no later than Friday April 16, 2021 at 4:00 PM (EDT) to confirm their interest.

The videoconference information will be sent to participants via email prior to the date of the event.

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REMAIN
UNCHANGED.**