



RETURN BIDS TO:
RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À:
Contracting Authority

LETTER OF INTEREST
LETTRE D'INTÉRÊT

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address
Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution
Clothing and Textiles Division / Division des vêtements et
des textiles
L'Esplanade Laurier,
East Tower 7th Floor
Tour est 7^e étage
140 O'Connor, rue O'Connor,
Ottawa
Ontario
K1A 0R5

Title - Sujet Soldier Systems Outlook Day	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8486-228072/A	Date 2021-05-07
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8486-228072	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$\$PR-751-80013
File No. - N° de dossier pr751.W8486-228072	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 2021-05-31 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: Doré, Catherine	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur pr751
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (613) 462-1016 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: See Herein.	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée See Herein – Voir ci-inclus	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

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING
VIRTUAL CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT OUTLOOK DAY 2021
FOR
DIRECTOR SOLDIER SYSTEMS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (DSSPM)**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1)	Background and Purpose of this Request for Information (RFI)	2
2)	Nature of Request for Information.....	2
3)	Nature and Format of Responses Requested.....	2
4)	Response Costs	3
5)	Treatment of Responses.....	2
6)	Contents of this RFI.....	3
7)	Question to Industry	3
8)	Format of Responses	4
9)	Enquiries	4
10)	Submission of Responses.....	4
11)	Annex A - Agenda.....	6

1) Background and Purpose of this Request for Information (RFI)

To support the Department of National Defence (DND), Director Soldier Systems Management (DSSPM) will be hosting a Virtual Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day. This initiative aims to foster communication and engagement between the Government of Canada (GoC) clothing and personal equipment teams, and their supporting industries. The anticipated outcome is to create a better contract environment from conception to delivery of critical items to our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, as well as support continued dialogue between industry and government to work towards consistent delivery of quality products.

The objectives of this RFI are:

- a. To invite supporting industries to identify their interest in attending the forthcoming Virtual Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day on June 10, 2021 at 0900-1300 as detailed in Annex A;
- b. To invite supporting industries to ask questions or request topics of interest to be covered at the event. This is not a guarantee that all requests will be accommodated.
- c. To ask supporting industries to respond to the questions in Section 7, ahead of the event. Answers provided by respondents will not be published or directly relayed during the Outlook Day.
- d. To ask supporting industries or related associations if there is interest in making a short presentation during the event to convey any message to the GoC. This is tentative and is not guaranteed that all requests will be accommodated.

2) Nature of Request for Information

This is not a bid solicitation. This RFI will not result in the award of any contract. As a result, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI or discussed during the Outlook Day should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. Nor will this RFI result in the creation of any source list. Therefore, whether or not any potential supplier responds to this RFI will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement. Also, the procurement of any of the goods and services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this RFI. This RFI is simply intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the matters described in this RFI.

3) Nature and Format of Responses Requested

Respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied. Respondents are also invited to provide comments regarding the content, format and/or organization of any draft documents included in this RFI. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

4) Response Costs

Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred in responding to this RFI.

5) Treatment of Responses

Use of Responses: Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by Canada to develop or modify procurement strategies or documents, and be addressed in Outlook

Day presentations. Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. However, if it deems appropriate, it could review responses received after the RFI closing date.

Review Team: A review team composed of representatives of the client (where applicable) and Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) will review the responses. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

Confidentiality: Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. Canada will handle the responses in accordance with the Access to Information Act.

Follow-up Activity: Canada may, in its discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response.

6) Contents of this RFI

This RFI contains a draft agenda for the event. This document remains a work in progress and respondents must assume that speakers or subjects may be modified before the event is held.

This RFI also contains specific questions addressed to the industry.

7) Question to Industry

- Q1) Based on the topics outlined in Annex A, are there any specific questions that your company would like addressed during the Outlook Day?
- Q2) Are there additional topics you want to see addressed during the Outlook Day? Topics suggested are not guaranteed to be discussed.
- Q3) Do you have a suggested method to continue engagement and discussion between the GoC and industry beyond this event? Ex, RFIs, Annual Outlook Day, etc.
- Q4) What kind of information or action does your company/industry require from the GoC that would support furthering clothing, equipment, and textile innovations?
- Q5) How would you like to receive anthropometric data to help in your design or bidding decisions?
- Q6) What are the impacts of Canadian Content for your company on responding to RFPs, providing innovative products, etc? Reference to the policy and guidelines can be found at the following link: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/supply-manual/section/3/130>
- Q7) What issues are you facing with meeting delivery times/schedules? Is there something DND can reasonably do to mitigate these issues?
- Q8) What issues is your company facing due to COVID-19? What are the long term implications as it relates to supporting the GoC?
- Q11) Is your company in the process of automating some of its manufacturing activity?
- Q12) Is there interest in a representative from your company / industry in making a short presentation during the event to convey any messages to the GoC? Due to time limitations of the event, any interest expressed in making a presentation does not a guarantee accommodation.
- Q13) If the answer to Q12 is yes, please provide the following details:

- i) Company, Association or Organization
- ii) Speaker's Name
- iii) Topics to be addressed
- iv) Speaker's contact information

Q14) Identify interest in attending the Virtual Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day. If yes, please provide the following information for each attendee:

- i) Attendee's Name
- ii) Company
- iii) Position
- iv) Email address

8) Format of Responses

Response to this RFI requires only an email response to the Contracting Authority. The email response should contain:

- i. this RFI number in email subject line;
- ii. the name, email address and telephone number of the respondent; and
- iii. the answers to the questions in Section 7 of this RFI;

9) Enquiries

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada may not respond to enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential suppliers. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to:

Contracting Authority: Catherine Doré
E-mail Address: catherine.dore@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca
Telephone: (613) 462-1016

10) Submission of Responses

Time and Place for Submission of Responses: Industry members interested in providing a response should deliver it to the Contracting Authority identified above by May 31, 2021.

Responsibility for Timely Delivery: Each respondent is solely responsible for ensuring its response is delivered on time to the correct location.

Identification of Response: Each respondent should ensure that its name and email address, the solicitation number and the closing date appear in the response.

Annex A – Event Agenda

Director Soldier Systems Program Management Virtual Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day 2021

Event Proposal

Concept:

The Director Soldier Systems Program Management (DSSPM) Virtual Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day aims to foster communication and engagement between the Government of Canada (GoC) clothing and personal equipment teams, and their Supporting Industries. The anticipated outcome is to create a better contract environment from conception to delivery of critical items to our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, as well as support continued dialogue between industry and government to work towards consistent delivery of quality products.

Date:

Thursday, June 10, 0900-1300 EST

Location:

Online – invitation link to follow

Objectives:

- To ensure productive communication between GoC and Supporting Industry.
- Incorporate Industry comments into the execution of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- Communicate program requirements and future developments
 - Short term CAF Plan (1FY) &
 - Medium Term CAF Plan (2-3 FY)
 - Major Initiative CAF Plans (3+ FY).
- Gain a better understanding of the developments of Industry processes, limitations, strengths, ideas including: production timelines, Multi Terrain (MT) pattern development, effects of COVID and future directions.
- Address key questions that will be of interest to Industry.

Scope:

- Attendance by Operational Clothing, Personal Equipment, Textiles, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Directorate of Land Requirements (DLR), Directorate of Navy Requirements (DNR) and Human Factors sections and their respective Supporting Industry members.
- Briefings from Operational Clothing, Personal Equipment, Textiles, PSPC, DLR, DNR and Human Factors sections to provide updates and answer outstanding questions.
- Briefings from Industry (tentative) to seek clarification and provide feedback to the Government of Canada.

**Event
Format:**

- Webinar lead by a Moderator (MC).
- Speaker's presentations and short (~7 min) question period immediately following.
- See below draft agenda.

Proposed Agenda:	Duration: 0900-1300	
	0:00-0:05	Introduction (MC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Etiquette Brief agenda overview Introduction of Frédéric Bernatchez
	0:05-0:20	Clothing program Update (Frédéric Bernatchez) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim of this event DSSPM Organization Current Business Environment Messages to industry
	0:20-0:40	Clothing contracts (Daisy Marcellana) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What Request for Proposals (RFP) are expected next 1-2 years: Hybrid Shirts, Converged Raingear, Tactical Field Over Boot (TFOB), Safety Boots, Combat and Mortar Gloves Badges – Issues and way forward 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
	0:40-1:00	Soldier Equipment (André-Marc Dallaire) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – helmets, soft and hard armour, vests Load carriage – vest/pouches, small pack, rucksack Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) – gloves, boots, coveralls and next generation Floatation Device – hybrid vest, COTS general purpose vest Winter mobility – skis, snowshoes, poles, toboggans 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
	1:00-1:20	Textile Requirements (Crystal Tait) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi Terrain (MT) Canadian Disruptive Pattern™ (CADPAT) textile summary How DSSPM will use RFIs to inform industries of new requirements Ways to communicate with industry to find new capabilities Three of the most common properties we look for in our requirements 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
	1:20-1:40	BREAK
	1:40-2:00	SOCEM (Serge Côte) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on The Soldier Operational Clothing and Equipment Modernization Project (SOCEM) updates Modernization and innovation in CAF clothing Equipment Summary

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
2:00-2:20	Operation Generation / CAF Anthropometrics Program (Major Fleury)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefing on Op Gen Briefing on CAF Anthropometrics Program 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC. Intro of next speaker by MC.
2:20-2:40	Directorate of Land Requirements (DLR) Briefing (LCol Percy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Roadmap for clothing and equipment (Army and Air Force long term outlook) – clothing system, load carriage, PPE, auxiliary equipment including winter mobility. 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC. Intro of next speaker by Moderator.
2:40-2:55	Directorate of Navy Requirements (DNR) Briefing (Cdr Phaneuf)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The long term vision for Navy users - clothing (protective, arctic), gloves, flotation. 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
2:55-3:15	Contract Requirement challenges (PSPC/DLP)	<p>*Potential Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFIs and LOIs, encouragement to respond, use in procurement process, etc. Importance of solicitation review and observations on bid submissions. 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
3:15-3:35	Briefing from Industry – Tentative, based on interest	<p>*Potential Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-pandemic Textile Industry Supply Chain Removal of PFAS - potential effects on technical requirements of tenders 7 min Q and A, moderated by MC.
3:35-3:45	Closing Statements from MC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps Thank you and acknowledgements
3:45		END