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Title - Sujet MAINTENANCE DIVING EQUIPMENT	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8482-182212/C	Date 2021-05-31
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8482-182212	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$ISM-027-28240
File No. - N° de dossier 027ism.W8482-182212	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 2021-08-31 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: Beaumier, Julie	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 027ism
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (613) 851-9981 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: Specified Herein Précisé dans les présentes	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

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This document is raised to provide information following the one-on-one sessions held on April, 19, April 20 and April 23, 2021 (W8482-182212/B).

The list of companies that attended the one-on-sessions were:

Aqua Lung Group
Babcock Canada Inc
BMT Canada
Draeger Safety Canada, Ltd.
Hyperbaric Modular Systems, Inc ("HMS")
IHC Hytech
Interspiro Inc./ Ocenco Inc.
Mobility Lab Inc
SOS Group
Thales Canada Defence & Security
Wilson Diving Services

Information provided by Canada during the one-on-one session:

Description of the current maintenance strategy and process

There are currently no supply arrangements in place to conduct maintenance work on diving equipment, only standing offers exist for the acquisition of parts. Previously there was a 3rd line maintenance contract to overhaul compressors at a contractor facility, however this has ended and was not renewed. Due to the life-support critical nature of diving equipment, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) has mandated that all maintenance must be completed using Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) original or OEM approved parts. This is to ensure material safety and proper configuration management of the equipment. Supply chain management in the acquisition of these part is therefore crucial to ensure the strict standards are adhered to, including availability, optimized reserves, shelf life, and disposal so as to meet the required maintenance schedules. Since almost all maintenance work on diving equipment has traditionally been done in-house, DND is seeking to leverage Industry capacity to augment and/or replace the current CAF capacity where appropriate and cost effective.

Group 1 – Personal Diving Equipment

Equipment in this group is located at most bases across Canada and currently maintained through annual Technical Maintenance Inspections (TMI). Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) Clearance Divers who are trained in 2nd level maintenance of this equipment, travel from the Fleet Diving Units (FDUs) in Shearwater and Esquimalt to each location on multiple 'road trips' each year, with the Manitoba/Ontario border serving as the division line. As much as possible, spares held by the FDUs are used to exchange with units while on the road in order to minimize the time spent conducting maintenance while at the units. This serves to shorten the time they will be away from their home FDU. However, some maintenance must still be done at the units such as visual inspections and rebuilds where not enough spare equipment exist. Maintenance information for this group of equipment is maintained in a standalone database accessible by all units with diving capability.

Challenges:

- These TMIs can take up to 6 months a year for the clearance divers to complete thereby taking them away from their primary purpose of operational diving.
- The maintenance parts must be centrally acquired through existing contracts. Due to long lead time in the approval and acquisition process large volumes are usually purchased each time, leading to complex warehousing requirements, shelf-life problems, and sometimes nil availability due to late acquisition.
- Maintenance information tracking is sometimes a challenge where components of a diving set (eg. CABA) are not always kept with the same set during operational use. This is to say, a regulator can be used, cleaned/dried during post-dive maintenance by the divers, and matched with a different cylinder or mask. However, all components within a unit remain within that unit throughout the operational year.

Group 2 – Recompression Chambers

Maintenance of this equipment group is conducted by the Fleet Maintenance Faculties (FMFs) at each coast, with the exception of the chambers located at the Experimental Diving & Undersea Group (EDUG) in Toronto which are currently maintained by in-house technicians. Clearance divers are trained to operate the chambers, conduct minor regular maintenance and troubleshooting to repair leaks. The FMFs conduct more complex corrective maintenance as well as the 5 and 10-year overhaul type preventive maintenance. A pre-overhaul survey is done by FMF no more than 6 months prior to the start of work to identify the state of the chamber and document deficiencies that must be addressed during the overhaul. This survey work will be retained by DND and will not be included in the scope of work. Maintenance information for this equipment group is maintained within the DND business enterprise system (DRMIS). Certification of chambers is provided by DND through inspections conducted by qualified FMF inspectors (or their delegates) and certified by the technical authorities. This certification function will be retained by DND.

Challenges:

FMF resources are prioritized according to operational requirements of the fleet. Overhaul of chambers sometimes require an extended period of time to complete which can be up to 6 months or more. Also, lead time for parts acquisition could further delay overhaul completion

Group 3 – Air compressors

The current in-service compressors are at end of life and are being phased out. These were maintained according to the level of complexity:

- 1st level (running checks, oil/fuel/filter changes and minor maintenance) – CAF military technicians
- 2nd level (corrective maintenance) – FMFs or sub-contracted by FMF
- 3rd level (5-year overhauls) – Contractor

Maintenance information for this equipment group is not currently maintained with the exception of some compressors at naval units being kept in DRMIS. The majority of the compressors only include a delivery tag with the date of delivery to the unit, which is used as the baseline date. This date, along with the running hour counter, form the basis for all maintenance. At 5 years past the delivery date the compressor is returned to the Canadian Forces Supply System for 3rd level overhaul and the unit draws a refurbished compressor from the supply system.

Challenges:

- Replacement units have not arrived within DND inventory but delivery is scheduled to begin within this fiscal year, possibly late Summer or Fall.

- Without a centralized maintenance tracking system, it is impossible to determine if a compressor has been fully maintained throughout its operational cycle. The only indicators of problem are failed air quality samples (done at 6-month intervals) and incidences of motor/compressor failure. Air quality sampling and testing will remain within the responsibility of DND.

Contract performance metrics

This is currently being defined by the project team. The level of complexity of diving equipment is relatively low therefore the metrics being considered will be commensurate with the work. This will be defined in the Request for Proposal (RFP), and input from Industry during draft RFP consultation will be considered.

Contract value

The cost estimate of this project cannot be shared with Industry at this time, however the estimated current level of effort for planned work within the scope of this contract can be shared. See table below:

Level of Effort for CAF Diving Equipment Maintenance (hrs/yr, averaged)	
Group 1 – Personal diving equipment	7900
Group 2 – Recompression Chambers (2 major overhauls /yr)	2100
Group 3 – Air Compressors	820
Dry suit repairs	2000
Cylinder hydro testing	315
Total:	13,135

Security requirements to access various sites:

A Reliability Status is required to conduct work on all CAF diving equipment. The Reliability Screening consists of three checks, which cover the previous five years:

1. Verification of Identity and Background Check:
 - a. Date of Birth
 - b. Address
 - c. Education
 - d. Professional qualifications
 - e. Character References
 - f. Employment history
2. Criminal Records Name Check (CRNC)
3. Credit Check

In addition, a Visit Clearance Request (VCR) must be completed and approved in order to gain access to a base. The purpose of a VCR is to validate the security status of the contractor against the requirement of the contract. This is initiated by the contractor each time access to a base is required. For more information please visit: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html>

Schedule for RFP

Please see the table below from section 7 of the LOI W8482-182212/B posted on Buy and Sell:

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Milestones	Dates
Industry Engagement / One-on-One Industry Meetings	Fall 2020 / Winter 2021
Draft RFP Release	Spring 2022
Industry Engagement Activity	Spring / Summer 2022
Final RFP release	Fall 2022
Bid Evaluation	Winter 2023
Contract Award	Fall 2023

Virtual equipment tour

An industry day is being planned with assistance from the FDUs and EDUG. A 'live' event from these outstations will likely not be possible due to current Public Health constraints, therefore they will be asked to put together a short presentation of the equipment. These will be presented to industry and questions can be answered by the Technical Authorities. TAs.

The following table provides the Questions and Responses from Industry during the Industry Engagement (written responses received and the one-on-one sessions)

	Questions	Responses
1	Can you confirm that the project management routines will be fully described in the RFP?	The draft documentation is not yet complete but project management routines should be fully described in the RFP.
2	Is there more than one LCMM?	There are 4 LCMMs responsible for all CAF diving equipment and any of these LCMMs may authorize work to be conducted by the contractor.
3	What part supply contracts does the CAF currently have the industry could leverage?	None
4	Is there existing parts inventory, and is there an expectation that this will be transferred to the Contractor as part of the contract?	Existing parts inventory should be transferred to the contractor at the start of the contract and would be considered Government Supplied Material (GSM). Any spare parts acquired by the contractor for the performance of maintenance work within the contract would be owned by DND while held by the contractor.
5	Can you estimate the current volume or warehouse requirements for the inventory that would be transferred?	Not at this time since contract award is estimated to be 2 years away.

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6	Is there inventory of spare diving and support equipment that will be transferred to the Contractor?	Any spare equipment that can be used for maintenance may be transferred and will be considered GSM. These must be tracked when held by the contractor. Please also see Response #4.
7	Do the CAF anticipate any requirements for service outside of Canada?	There is currently no requirement for service outside of Canada. If this requirement exists in the future, then it may be added to the RFP.
8	Do CAF currently utilize any RFID or barcode tracking system for the dive equipment?	Not currently for diving equipment.
9	Which IT systems would the CAF like the proponent to integrate with?	DND currently uses a materiel acquisition and support information system called DRMIS. It is an SAP business enterprise system built on the ECC 6 platform. Integration with this system would not be a requirement at the start of the contract so long as the contractor held maintenance data is either compatible or can be made compatible with DRMIS during the life of the contract. Additional detail will be provided in the RFP.
10	Does the CAF envision the use of non core taskings for the development of in-service capabilities?	Any emergent work that is considered within the scope of the contract may be added.
11	Will the CAF grant access to historical corrective and preventative maintenance records, including parts records with OEM referenced part numbers?	Yes, insofar as historic records exist. All equipment and parts will have NATO Stock Numbers (NSNs) and OEM part numbers.
12	Does the current inventory include date of manufacture data?	Mostly, some older equipment may not have this information or may not be accurate
13	What is the number and qualifications of the staff currently dedicated to the maintenance of the CAF's diving equipment?	12 Clearance Divers, 4 military managers, 4 logistics staff. Only Clearance Divers are trained to conduct Group 1 maintenance. They are trained to the same standard as OEM.
14	Is there an opportunity for these staff to transfer as part of the contract?	No, they are military members and a few public servants

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15	Are there any protection of employment regulations or considerations that the CAF would like us to take into account?	The contractor will be responsible to meet all relevant federal and provincial employment health and safety regulations
16	Are there any planned changes to the equipment under contract during the term of the contract? This could be as a result of planned obsolescence or procurement.	None at this time, however the RFP will have provisions to allow the contract to be amended if new equipment is brought into service or old equipment is decommissioned.
17	Could you further define the requirements to satisfy the Health, Safety and Environment (HS&E) obligations of the contract?	The contractor must abide by all HS&E regulations enforced federally, provincially, and within local jurisdictions. DND has no additional requirement beyond these.
18	What is the shipping of equipment, expected timelines for service work?	<p>The shipping (if required) will be through commercial means and the estimated timelines at this point for work as follows:</p> <p>Group 1 ➔ no more than 2 weeks per unit</p> <p>Group 2 ➔ no more than 60 days to complete overhaul maintenance, excluding preparations</p> <p>Group 3 ➔ no more than 1 week (a refurbished compressor should arrive at the unit prior to expiration of the in-service compressor).</p> <p>This will be an aspect of future Industry consultation.</p>
19	What work must be done In-situ work?	Fixed chambers must be done in-situ, for other equipment this can be considered depending on space requirements, nature of equipment, and cost considerations
20	What is the layout for maintenance records?	Will be defined in the RFP
21	How will Canada continue to communicate with Industry going forward?	Buy and Sell is the official website (buyandsell.gc.ca) for all communications with Industry, any information or documentation will be published on Buy and Sell. All questions/comments on this requirement must be sent to the Contracting Authority.
22	Will there be a formal response to this LOI?	All responses will be posted on Buy and Sell after completion of the Industry Engagements.
23	Can you provide information on recompression chambers?	Additional information on recompression chambers will be provided on Industry Day.

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24	Will preference be given to companies that hire former CAF technicians/veterans?	No
25	Is all the maintenance must be conducted in Canada only?	No, however Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) may apply to this requirement. There is expectation that all work will be carried out by OEM or OEM certified technicians.
26	What is the position of hyperbaric chambers in maintenance cycle?	Inspection and overhaul at 5 and 10 years. The requirement is projected to be one or two chamber overhauls per year. The level of effort is detailed in the response to industry.
27	Is there a Canadian Supplier for the acrylic windows in the recompression chambers?	There is no Canadian supplier. DND holds the technical information for the manufacture and sources from UK and US suppliers with the capability to build.
28	Can you provide information on the use of the submarine rescue chambers?	These chambers are used as back up to the main chambers when they are down for maintenance or overhaul. They are run up a minimum one time per week.
29	For the "newer procurement" what maintenance was included in the procurement contracts?	For the new air compressors, this is strictly a procurement contract, there is no maintenance tail. For the new chambers, maintenance is done by the FMF with OEM support as necessary.
30	Will the new compressors be replaced by Bauer?	The replacement of the air compressors is a competitive requirement; therefore, it is unknown at this point who will be supplying the compressors.
31	Will Canada consider sub-contractor experience in a potential RFP?	The draft documentation and evaluation criteria are not completed yet. They would be released for Industry review and comments once completed.
32	Considering the challenge with Covid-19, how and when the Industry Day will be held?	The intent is to hold an Industry Day sometime in the next month or so. It will be held in a virtual format as to not delay progression of moving this requirement forward. It is envisioned that the FDUs will provide either a presentation or short videos demonstrating the operation of the equipment being considered.

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33	It was indicated that the Recompression Chambers (RCC) certification was to be retained by DND. Who does it?	5-year Certification is done by coastal Formation Technical Authorities (FTAs). 10-year Certification done by the Design Authority (Ottawa).
34	Are there any classified concerns for the diving equipment?	The majority of the equipment is "off the shelf" commercial. There are controlled goods associated with the rebreather sets.
35	Will DND consider the option 1 –a regional support construct with shipping to a regional centre?	This is one of the options to be considered by Canada with the goal to decrease DND resource requirement. The regional construct is an option presented, but would be much more complex for DND to manage. The draft RFP will reflect the chosen support option and evaluation criteria.
36	Is the technical maintenance inspection included in this requirement?	This will be an aspect of future industry engagement to propose efficiencies.
37	Are tests/verifications required?	Tests and verification of new equipment will continue to be done by EDUG as part of their mandate. Tests and verifications post equipment maintenance should be done by the service technician to ensure maintenance was completed correctly.
38	Is the list of equipment provided with the LOI accurate?	By type yes, but quantities may not be accurate.
39	Will there be a gap between contract awards and start work date?	Anticipate a start-up period to transition to the new support arrangement.
40	Where the group 1 equipment is in its life cycle, and can we have access to publications and time of year the work is required?	This varies by equipment, but in the range of 10-15 years. The replacement is done under a separate procurement process not under considerations for this support requirement. The publications will be available and are similar to commercial pubs. Time requirements would vary dependent on the unit requirements.
41	It was indicated that maintenance was tracked using a database. Would a contractor have access to this information?	The contractor would be expected to maintain defined information with the ability to port the information into the DND system of record (DRMIS) How this will work depends on the support option chosen and will be reflected in the RFP.

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42	For Group 3 equipment, is there a standard brand? With no support contract for the portable, how many are on the shelf and what are the replacements?	Present units are Bauer (portable) and Jordaire (fixed). Competitive procurement process of new compressors is ongoing, however additional quantities will be purchased to account for repairs and overhauls.
43	Concerning security requirements. Is this confined to the individual or the company?	This would depend on what work is being done, where the work is being done and access required. The RFP will contain additional information. For more information on security please visit: https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html
44	How often does the CF change models? This has implications on contractor training and support.	This will be done in consultation with the service provider and there will be contractual mechanisms to address the change models (if any).
45	Is there a mechanism for equipment write off?	There will be an investigation on the component and it will be discussed with the service provider. Direction will be given to the provider on write off action or level of repair.
46	Is there a recall mechanism	Yes. Once advised of an issue, the TA issues Diving Technical Instructions (DTI) to diving teams to inform them of the issue and detail action required.
47	Is there a requirement to train divers in maintenance?	Do not foresee a training component at this point. Maintenance training is part of the in house CLdiver technical training.
48	Group 2 –The FMF survey for 5/10 yr. overhaul, will it be passed to contractor to carry out work?	FMF will conduct the survey, this will be passed to the TA who will particularize the standard work package to address the survey results. This resultant work instruction will be passed to a contractor to conduct the necessary work.
49	Concerning Group 3- are the old compressors being retained for use? What is the new brand?	Old compressors are at end of life and will not be retained. Only the new type will be managed. Brand has not yet been determined as the procurement is by competitive bid and a contract has not yet been awarded.

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50	Does DND have an analysis of training records against corrective maintenance?	There has been no analysis done to date as no training problem is perceived. If anything, the equipment is over maintained due to the nature of its use.
51	Are there any specific requirements related to regulations (ie pressure vessel standards)?	No specific Canadian rules as the military equipment is exempt. There are several military directives, but these are few and normally follow OEM directions.
52	Any planned changes to equipment?	Other than the air compressors, not at this time. The RFP will contain provisions for taking on new equipment support.
53	Will the size of the fleet of equipment change? Are there other opportunities for unrelated equipment (ie gas testing)?	There might be some minor changes in the numbers of dive teams as new ships come on line, but there will be no change in the capability. There is no requirement for additional unrelated equipment to be included at this time.
54	In relation to ULSSDS, is shelf life of stock an issue?	Shelf-life management is still a requirement. If industry has another way, it could be considered.
55	For Group 1 equipment, how many visits to units are required?	Normally each unit is done once per year, however at times it might require multiple visits.
56	Due to security, are there any additional requirements for foreign workers to access locations?	The instruction on the security requirements for foreign suppliers will be in the RFP. For more information, please visit: https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/international-eng.html
57	There was no mention of ancillary equipment like: DPV (Diver Propulsion Vehicle) Wireless Underwater Communication Search equipment (Metal detectors, Pingers, Pipe trackers...)	CAF do not use DPV The Wireless Underwater Communication will be included as part of the ULSSDS and SSBA equipment subsystem. The CAF has handheld sonars which may be included into this requirement.
58	ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) Is this maintenance done primarily by the original manufacturer?	ROV are not within the scope of this requirement.

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All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.