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# Request for Information – Ability to facilitate Astronaut Space Flight Readiness Training with rotary wing aircraft.

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## 1- Introduction

This Request for Information (RFI) is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP).

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) seeks to identify the potential interest and capability to conduct flight training for partner agency astronauts with a twin-engine helicopter at both Ellington Airfield (EFD) in Houston, TX as well as at St. Hubert airport (CYHU), QC.

Astronaut Space Flight Readiness Training leverages the challenges of aviation to enhance the astronaut corps' ability to perform in acute high stress environments. Consideration is being given to augmenting the current training system with a rotary wing element as we take on new challenges in space exploration.

## 2- Preliminary Task Definition

Depending on the responses to this RFI and other factors, the CSA may consider competitively selecting a provider to facilitate helicopter training for astronauts, which could lead to a competitive process for a one-year or long-term contract. The provider could be expected to undertake the following tasks, with guidance from the CSA:

- Provide and maintain a twin-engine helicopter for astronaut training with single pilot capability.
- Provide a trial flight rate of approximately 400 hours of training during a 12 month period with approximately 300 hours with an instructor and 100 hours without to allow for flights with a qualified astronaut acting as pilot in command.
- In order to minimize inactivity periods for the equipment and facilitate maintenance, training could be concentrated into defined segments and allow for periods of up to 4 weeks where no training would be conducted .
- Comply with all applicable Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Transport Canada (TC) regulations.
- Provide certified instructors with a minimum of 1,000 hours total and 500 hours of helicopter (rotary-wing) experience, capable of training towards both FAA and TC aviation ratings.



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- Instructors to provide flight training as well as ground school for both experienced aviator-astronauts and astronauts with no previous flight experience.
  - Instructors could be asked to provide flight training and ground classes in both official languages (French and English) when training provided in Canada.
  - Provide helicopter for solo flight as well as Pilot in Command flight for astronauts holding a valid and applicable FAA and TC rating for the flight to be undertaken.
  - Provide for Cross Country training flights and any remote maintenance required.
  - Provide own insurance for the hull as well as a minimum liability of \$5 million US for all authorized operations involving the aircraft and its crew.
  - Initial training to start in January 2022.

Other roles and responsibilities for the provider are to be expected in addition to the ones identified above.

### 3- How to participate

Interested parties are invited to complete and return:

- the Response Submission Form (Annex A)

The documentation must be submitted in electronic form by emailing it to [marie-eve.soucy2@canada.ca](mailto:marie-eve.soucy2@canada.ca). Please ensure that the total file size does not exceed 10 MB.

Respondents should send their responses by September 2, 2021 at 12:00 EDT. Submissions must be properly identified with the Respondent's name, civic address and email address, and the RFI title appearing legibly.

Respondents should mark any portions of their responses that they consider proprietary or confidential. Canada will handle the responses in accordance with the *Access to Information Act*. Should the responses contain information identified by the submitter as "Proprietary" or "Confidential", a secure electronic transmission format can be arranged. Requests for secure electronic transmission should be made to [marie-eve.soucy2@canada.ca](mailto:marie-eve.soucy2@canada.ca).

### 4- Response Guidelines

Information collected through this RFI will be an important consideration for CSA strategic planning. Responses to the RFI are intended to enable the CSA to determine the programmatic and technical readiness of Respondents to take on the described training as well as identify unforeseen challenges associated with this task.



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## 5- RFI Limitations

It is emphasized that this is not a bid solicitation nor a preselection process. This RFI will not result in the award of any contract; therefore, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI should not earmark 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 for planning and information purposes only and is **not** to be construed as a commitment by the Government of Canada to enter into an agreement.

It should also be noted that no agreement to do business with any Respondent will result from this specific enquiry.

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

Potential Respondents are advised that any information submitted to the government in response to this RFI may be used by the government in the development of a subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP), with the exception of proprietary or confidential information. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way as a commitment by Canada, or as authority for the Respondent to undertake any work which could be charged to Canada, nor is this RFI to be considered a commitment to issue eventual RFPs, enter into a private-public partnership or award eventual contracts in relation to this project.

Canada shall not be bound by anything stated in this RFI. All the information provided in this RFI is subject to change.

## 6- Enquiries

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada will not necessarily respond to enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential Respondents. However, Respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to [edward.tabarah@canada.ca](mailto:edward.tabarah@canada.ca)