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Bid Fax: (418) 566-6167

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

Public Works and Government Services Canada

Northern Contaminated Site Program

Canada Place/Place du Canada

10th Floor/10e étage

9700 Jasper Ave/9700 ave Jasper

Edmonton

Alberta

T5J 4C3

Title - Sujet Multidisciplinary Environmental Ser Multidisciplinary Environmental Services	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation EW699-220414/A	Date 2021-08-20
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client PWGSC EW699-220414	GETS Ref. No. - N° de réf. de SEAG PW-\$NCS-014-12120
File No. - N° de dossier NCS-1-44066 (014)	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM Mountain Daylight Saving Time MDT on - le 2021-09-01 Heure Avancée des Rocheuses HAR	
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: Giguere, Mario	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur ncs014
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (780) 246-0393 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX (418) 566-6167
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: PWGSC/TPSGC MAIN STREET Winnipeg Manitoba R3C 1B3 Canada	

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

EW699-220414/A Multidisciplinary Environmental Services

LETTER OF INTEREST

Please note that this Letter of Interest serves as a notice to industry that Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) intends to establish new Departmental Individual Standing Offers (DISO) to replace the expiring agreements or contracts under EW699-170520 Environmental Consulting Services, EW699-170521 Environmental Consulting South Tool and ET022-172390 Biological and Environmental Assessment.

This published notice is not a solicitation. This document does not offer any commitments with respect to future purchases or contracts, nor does it include any supporting documents.

PRESENTATION MATERIALS FROM THE PRE-TENDER INFORMATION SESSION

An optional pre-tender information session was held online for registrants:

Date: Thursday 5 August 2021
Time: 10:30 – 12:00 MDT
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

The attached presentation materials contain the following components to be distributed publicly:

- Presentation slides
- Presentation notes
- Attendance register
- Transcript of the questions and answers

Information Session

EW699-220414/A Multidisciplinary Environmental Services



 Public Services and
Procurement Canada Services publics et
Approvisionnement Canada

Canada

Hi and welcome to today's optional, pre-tender information session related to the upcoming procurement of multidisciplinary environmental services standing offers.

The objective of this information session is to relay information to industry and claimant groups about PSPC's requirement during our planning phase. I estimate that the presentation should take around 45 minutes to an hour with time for questions and answers at the end of the presentation.

Please note that throughout the presentation, the names Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) may be used interchangeably. The former is the operating name of the department, while the latter is the legal name. Both refer to the same department.

While this information session will not be recorded as video, the presentation slides, the attendance register, and a transcript of the questions and answers will be distributed publicly as an amendment to the Letter of Interest on buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders.

Agenda

- PSPC Western Region representatives
- Registered firms / roll call
- Review of the Letter of Interest (LOI)
- Technical disciplines & requirements
- Solicitation requirements
- Questions and answers

Please submit questions in writing in the Microsoft Teams chat window



We will begin the presentation by introducing our PSPC Western Region representatives, then I will perform a roll call for each firm or organization attending the information session today.

I will then review the LOI that was posted to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders, which serves as a notice of an upcoming procurement to industry and land claimant groups with our anticipated procurement timeframes, the number of standing offers that we will issue, and offer some detail on the call-up and vendor performance procedures.

Although the upcoming standing offers are to be used exclusively by PSPC, our project management team will be leading projects on behalf of other government departments. Our project management team will identify those client departments while introducing the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan program. They will also elaborate on the consultant disciplines and typical types of work to be distributed through standing offer call-ups.

I will offer a brief overview of our planned solicitation requirements, including the term of the standing offers, the socio-economic criteria for Indigenous procurement, how pricing will work, certifications, etc.

Finally, we will answer any questions that you may have, beginning with those submitted by e-mail, then those submitted through the MS Teams chat window.

PSPC Western Region Representatives

- Mario Giguère – Procurement Specialist & Standing Offer Authority

mario.giguere@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

- Amanda Wiebe – Procurement Team Leader

amanda.wiebe@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

- Chris Doupe – Manager, Environmental Services

chris.doupe@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

- Matthew Irvine – Manager, Environmental Services

matthew.irvine@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

- Kristina Farmer – Regional Manager, Environmental Services

kristina.farmer@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca

3

I am Mario Giguère, a Procurement Specialist with PSPC's Western Region Procurement Branch. Any communication concerning this procurement should be sent to me as the Standing Offer Authority.

On the information session today, we also have:

- Amanda Wiebe, a Procurement Team Leader within the Procurement Branch
- Chris Doupe, who is a manager in our Environmental Services team in Edmonton,
- Matthew Irvine, who is also a manager in our Environmental Services team in Winnipeg
- Kristina Farmer, who is the Regional Manager of our Environmental Services team

Registered Firms / Roll Call

AECOM	EGE Engineering Ltd.	Morrison Hershfield	SNC-Lavalin
Arcadis	Eng-Tech Consulting Ltd.	North/South Consultants Inc.	Solstice Environmental Management
ASE Services	ENSERO Solutions	Outcome Consultants Inc.	Stantec
Associated Environmental	G3 Consulting Ltd.	Palustris Environmental	Tetra Tech
BluMetric Environmental	Geosyntec Consultants	Paragon Soil and Environmental Consulting Inc.	Thurber Engineering Ltd.
Canada North Environmental Services	GHD	Parsons	TimberNorth Consulting
CAP Engineering	Golder Associates Ltd.	Pinchin	Trace Associates Inc.
Dillon Consulting Ltd.	HDR	Qikiqtaaluk Environmental	West Earth Sciences
Earth Concerns Environmental Contracting Inc.	Hemmera	Sanexen	Wildlife Resource Consulting Services MB Inc.
Earthmaster Environmental Strategies Inc.	KGS Group	SCG Industries Ltd.	Wood PLC
ECOH Management Inc.	Millenium EMS Solutions Ltd.	SLR Consulting (Canada) Ltd.	WSP
ECOSTEM Ltd.			

4

45 firms and 106 individuals have registered for today's information session. I would like to perform a roll call, however I will only call-out the name of each firm that registered by e-mail. Once your firm's name is called, I would ask that one person from the firm unmute and say "present."

[Editors note: of the companies listed in the table, Arcadis, Palustris Environmental and WSP did not confirm their attendance.]

Review of the Letter of Interest

- Notice for industry representatives and claimant groups
- Replacing previous environmental services consultant tools
 - EW699-170520 Environmental Consulting Services ("North Tool")
 - EW699-170521 Environmental Consulting South Tool ("South Tool")
 - ET022-172390 Biological and Environmental Assessment ("Bio Tool")
- New objectives for the RFSO
 - Rapidly award contracts for multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary projects
 - Improve call-up procedures for value, flexibility and performance



Now that the roll call is over, I would like to ask everyone to mute their microphones.

Let's review some key points from the Letter of Interest that was posted to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders.

The Letter of Interest serves as a notice to industry and land claimant groups that PSPC is currently drafting a new Request for Standing Offer (or RFSO) that will replace a number of our older environmental services consulting standing offers and contracts.

For those who are familiar with the older tools, we informally called them our North Tool, South Tool and Bio Tool. PSPC needs new standing offers because the North and South Tools are currently set to expire at the end of March 2022, while the Bio Tool contract expired in March earlier this year .

Since the RFSO is currently in development, a number of details are subject to change. Nonetheless, PSPC would like to communicate our plan moving forward and to share some of the thoughts behind the changes proposed in the LOI. This is why there were no attachments or supporting documents.

The principal objective for the new RFSO is to allow PSPC to rapidly award consulting contracts for projects that normally require multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary work (if and when they are required). For this reason, PSPC is consolidating the scopes of work of our previous tools. The call-up mechanism should help us award contracts quicker while being more efficient at administering the procurement tools.

The secondary objectives for the new RFSO are to find new ways to 1) achieve more value with call-ups, notably in terms of travel costs or Indigenous Benefit Plan commitments, 2) allow Project Managers some flexibility in choosing the most appropriate offeror for their specific projects and 3) to prevent and correct issues surrounding the previous vendor performance procedures. I mentioned Indigenous Benefits Plans, so if you're not familiar with them, don't worry—I will explain what they are later in the presentation.

Chris Doupe and his project management team will elaborate on the project disciplines in the next section of the presentation, but this new RFSO will require consultants to offer all of the consulting services disciplines listed in the LOI (not just particular disciplines). If your firm cannot offer all of the disciplines, you may want to look towards forming partnerships with other firms or to subcontract certain services.

Review of the Letter of Interest (2)

- New standing offers with geographic streams
 - Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba
 - Northwest Territories & Yukon
 - Nunavut
- Nunavut Directive – register with the Inuit Firm Registry (IFR)
 - <https://www.inuitfirm.tunngavik.com>

6

The new RFSO will feature three “streams” that will separate projects according to geography. The first stream encompasses work in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The second stream is meant for work in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, while the third stream is reserved for work in Nunavut.

Please note that consultants may choose to submit offers for one stream, two streams or all three streams. The RFSO will include a basis of selection for evaluators that will determine five successful offerors for each stream. This means that PSPC will issue 15 standing offers in total.

One of the principal reasons for having a separate stream for Nunavut projects is for the implementation of article 24 of the Nunavut Agreement. Under this Agreement, PSPC must limit tendering to firms that are registered under the Inuit Firm Registry (IFR). The IFR is a self-maintained registry by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. to determine which entities are considered an “Inuit Firm,” of which there are three definitions:

- a) A limited company with at least 51% of the company’s voting shares beneficially owned by Inuit, or
- b) A cooperative controlled by Inuit, or
- c) An Inuk sole proprietorship or partnership

Since this is a self-maintained registry, it’s important to note that the registry and its definitions belong to the Inuit—not the federal government.

As such, registration on the IFR will be a mandatory criteria for a standing offer in the Nunavut stream. This is a key point of the presentation—if your firm is interested in the Nunavut stream, I strongly recommend that you register now for the IFR, or that you approach Inuit businesses to form joint ventures that will meet the IFR’s definitions and registration requirements. Take a look at the IFR documents and forms at <https://www.inuitfirm.tunngavik.com>

Review of the Letter of Interest (3)

Business volumes and percentage distribution of call-ups

Rank	Percentage Distribution	Estimated Value AB, SK & MB	Estimated Value NT & YT	Estimated Value NU
1	30%	\$1,275,000	\$1,155,000	\$795,000
2	25%	\$1,062,500	\$962,500	\$662,500
3	20%	\$850,000	\$770,000	\$530,000
4	15%	\$637,500	\$577,500	\$397,500
5	10%	\$425,000	\$385,000	\$265,000
Total	100%	\$4,250,000	\$3,850,000	\$2,650,000

Bear in mind that unlike contracts, the standing offers themselves do not guarantee the work. The standing offers simply set the conditions and pricing for its call-up process over a specific period of time. It's actually the call-up against the standing offer that forms a guaranteed contract.

It is very difficult for PSPC to determine the overall estimated value of call-ups against the standing offers, but it is reasonable to assume that the cumulative value of call-ups under these standing offers would be around \$64,500,000 over a period of six years. That would mean that the stream for Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba would have around \$4,250,000 worth of call-ups per year, with \$3,850,000 per year for the Northwest Territories and Yukon stream, and finally \$2,650,000 per year for the Nunavut stream.

PSPC will distribute call-ups according to the procedures stated in the upcoming RFSO, which will include the percentage distribution for each of the five ranked standing offers in each stream. 5% increments should separate the total value of the call-ups under each standing offer, meaning the top ranked standing offer should receive 30% of the total value of the call-ups, while the fifth ranked standing offer should receive 10% of the call-ups. For purposes of illustration, this table breaks down the cumulative value of call-ups according to the percentage distributions of each standing offer.

Review of Letter of Interest (4)

● New call-up procedures

● Tier 1: <\$100,000

- Choose an offeror
- Compete call-up on the basis of level of effort, work plan or Indigenous Benefits Plan (IBP) commitments

● Tier 2: ≥\$100,000

- Rotation
- Direct call-up with “best fit” justification
- Compete call-up on the basis of level of effort, work plan or IBP commitments

8

A little earlier, I listed PSPC’s secondary objectives for the call-up procedures, namely to achieve more value with call-ups and to allow more flexibility to Project Managers when issuing call-ups to offerors. To achieve this, PSPC will be instituting two tiers of call-ups with separate instructions:

For call-ups estimated to be worth less than \$100,000.00, PSPC Project Managers may either 1) select the offeror of their choice or 2) compete the call-up on the basis of a work plan, Indigenous Benefit Plan commitments, or level of effort using the pre-established unit rates specified in the standing offer. This tier is remarkable because it doesn’t use a rotation to distribute work, however each call-up will affect the ideal percentage distribution that is a key metric for respecting the pre-determined standing offer percentages.

For call-ups worth \$100,000.00 and greater, PSPC has three options: 1) issue the call-up to the next firm on the rotation, 2) direct the call-up to a particular offeror with a “best fit” justification, or 3) compete the call-up in the same way as the first tier. Indeed, the rotation ensures more equitable and consistent distribution of call-ups for larger projects, while the “best fit” justification cannot be used arbitrarily—it must explain how one particular offeror is necessary to achieve the technical solution, cost savings or scheduling efficiencies.

For the second tier of call-ups, PSPC may choose to omit the call-up limitation (or maximum limitation) in the RFSO and the resulting standing offers, but please note that call-ups are not expected to exceed \$4 Million for the largest requirements.

Review of the Letter of Interest (5)

- Vendor performance procedure
 - Adjust percentages of distribution to avoid compounding call-ups in the rotation
- Anticipated tender and award timeframes
 - Issue RFSO in early autumn
 - Minimum 40 calendar day solicitation period
 - Evaluation during winter months
 - Award standing offers in early 2022

9

The LOI mentions how PSPC may develop a vendor performance procedure that is specific to these standing offers. The important thing to note is that each call-up will be assessed for performance and—in instances of non-performance—PSPC will be permitted to adjust the offeror's percentage distribution of call-ups.

In terms of timeframes, PSPC is anticipating the following procurement schedule: issuing the RFSO to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders in mid-to-late September, with a minimum solicitation period of 40 calendar days, which should likely close in early November.

PSPC will evaluate the offers during the winter months with the intent of awarding the new standing offers in the early months of 2022, likely in January.

Please note that this schedule not set in stone and is subject to change. For example, a federal election this fall could result in significant delays to the schedule.

Technical Requirements

● Chris Doupe



10

Who We Are

- Environmental Services, Western Region is a group of approximately 20 project managers plus support staff
- Our region extends across the Prairies, NWT and Nunavut, with some support work in Yukon
- We operate out of offices in Yellowknife, Edmonton, Calgary and Winnipeg, although mostly out of home for now
- Giselle Cotta manages a group dedicated to CIRNAC working on their large northern projects
- Matt Irvine and I manage the other two groups, separating work out by client department with some fluidity

Who We Are (2)

- We operate somewhat independently from other regions (Pacific, Ontario, Quebec, NCA and Atlantic) and we develop our own contracting tools
- Our tools are only appropriate for use in Western Region
- To the extent possible, our tools are similar across Canada but there are some regional differences

Who We Work For

● Our largest clients in recent years are:

- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Department of National Defense
- Transport Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- RCMP
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Parks Canada

● Other smaller clients include:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Correctional Services Canada, Canadian Border Services, Natural Resources Canada and others

How We Deliver Our Services

- While we have approximately 20 project managers, only a small amount of work is delivered directly by our PM's, therefore, most work is done through contracting with private contractors
- Most work tendered through our Procurement group, either as standing offer type tools or specific contracts
- This group of tools is meant to cover almost all services we expect to deliver in the next few years
- Examples of projects not managed in this manner:
 - Where there is very specific objective not covered by our contracting tools;
 - Too large to fit well within tool definition;
 - Construction type contracts not typically bid by consulting companies (ie remediation)

What We Do

- PSPC is a service provider for all federal departments
- Environmental Services are an optional service—client departments are free to do work themselves or go out directly to contractors/consultants
- Our work theoretically could include a wide variety of “environmental” projects
- Typically though, clients will come to us annually with similar requirements
- Most of our work is in contaminated sites
- Other aspects that are NOT contaminated sites work per se are often also associated with these projects (ie archaeological and biological studies, regulatory permitting)

Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan (FCSAP)

- ◆ FCSAP is a large federal initiative to identify and address contaminated sites within the federal government portfolio
- ◆ Many, if not most, of the environmental aspects in this tool are aligned with this program (ie historical review, testing program, etc)
- ◆ FCSAP projects and other similar contaminated sites work typically make up >90% of our workload

A Couple Important Factors to Consider

- Remote/northern nature of (much of) our work
 - Consideration of logistics, including weather and a short summer are key to project success
 - Combining work steps and tasks into fewer site visits to minimize travel
- Indigenous involvement: many projects are located within CLCA's or on Reserve lands
 - Opportunities for hiring local labour need to be considered
 - Often need to engage with local communities prior to site work and/or apply for permits or licenses

Breakdown of Environmental Aspects

- Request for proposal identifies 15 environmental aspects within four groups as follows:
 - Contaminated sites consulting services
 - Construction planning, design and supervision (in relation to environmental projects)
 - Environmental impact assessment permitting and related studies
 - Environmental management and compliance

Contaminated Sites Consulting Services

- ◆ Phase 1, 2 and 3 environmental site assessment (ESA)
- ◆ Human health and ecological risk assessment
- ◆ Remedial options analysis and remedial action plans / risk management plan
- ◆ Geotechnical assessment (not strictly contaminated sites)

Construction Planning, Design and Supervision (Related to Environmental Projects)

- ◆ Design and specifications including tendering assistance
- ◆ Site supervision and contract administration services

Environmental Impact Assessment, Permitting and Related Studies

- Biological studies and investigations
- Environmental impact assessment
- Permitting and regulatory support
- Archaeological assessment

Environmental Management & Compliance

- ◆ Designated substances and hazardous materials surveys audits and abatement (often associated with contaminated sites work)
- ◆ Air quality
- ◆ Storage tank system audits, design and site supervision
- ◆ Demolition assessment and waste survey (often associated with contaminated sites work)
- ◆ Potable water

Summary

- ◆ Expectation is that all firms submitting a proposal will be able to complete all of the expected work, whether this is through in-house services, joint ventures or subcontracting portions of the work.

Solicitation Requirements

- Location of tender documents
 - buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders
- Term of standing offers
- Modern treaties and Indigenous procurement
- Evaluation criteria



While the solicitation documents are currently being developed and details are subject to change, I would like to share as much as I can about what you can expect in terms of solicitation requirements.

PSPC is currently transitioning our procurement systems to a web-based environment called CanadaBuys, which uses SAP Ariba. While I encourage all firms to create a free account to view current tender opportunities at canadabuy.ca, I would like to clarify that this RFSO will be posted uniquely to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders.

At this point, PSPC is structuring the standing offers with a term of three years and an additional three option years.

Since the standing offers cover a large geographic area, notably in the arctic territories, they are applicable to modern treaties (also known as Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements) that have specific procurement obligations aimed at enhancing the economic opportunities of Indigenous groups. This RFSO will contain socio-economic evaluation criteria in each stream requiring a strategy for maximizing the use of local Indigenous employment, subcontracting and skills development.

This is where I would like to talk about Indigenous Benefits Plans (IBPs). Firm commitments for labour, subcontracting and training will not be required for the RFSO, however they will be required at the time of each individual call-up. Each individual call-up will include an IBP that is tailored to the applicable modern treaty and project requirements, so the IBPs may not always be the same. Prior to issuing a call-up, IBPs ask offerors to state their percentage commitments towards Indigenous labour, subcontracting and training. Later on in the call-up, those commitments are assessed against their actual percentages during the performance of the work.

PSPC is currently developing the technical evaluation criteria for the RFSO, but in the meantime, one can expect to prepare a proposal with conventional types of mandatory and point-rated criteria, notably for corporate experience, knowledge/methodology and team experience.

Solicitation Requirements (2)

● Pricing

- Hourly rates and rate adjustments

● Certifications

- Declarations/certifications form
- <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/organisation-organization/securite-security-eng.html>

● Official language(s)

- Documents may be submitted in English or French, but PSPC's Western Region operates in English

25

The price proposal form in the RFSO will likely require an hourly rate for each listed resource category in the RFSO, such as a Senior Lead/Principal, Senior Professional, Resident Engineer, Intermediate Technologist, etc. Each hourly rate will be multiplied by the estimated usage/weighting of each standing offer period. Rate adjustments for the standing offer periods or option years will be based upon the previous years' hourly rates according to the average weekly earnings for Canada as published by Statistics Canada.

In terms of certifications, the RFSO will include a declaration/certifications form that includes contact information, type of organization (sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership or joint venture), federal contractors program for employment equity, former public servant certification, etc.). I mainly wish to highlight that the RFSO will not have an industrial security requirement, yet we encourage offerors to obtain security clearance as soon as possible to be eligible for individual call-up requirements that include a Security Requirement Checklist (SRCL). Note that it can take up to 12 months to obtain security clearance, so it's worth taking a look at the web site listed here to get started.

In regards to official languages, the RFSO will be posted to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders in English and French, so offerors are welcome to submit their offer in either language. However, keep in mind that PSPC's Western Region provides procurement services to the public in English.

Questions

- Questions submitted by e-mail
- Questions written in the Microsoft Teams chat window



Now I would like to answer your questions!

[Mario] will begin by reading out and answering the questions that were submitted by e-mail, then I will read out and answer the questions that you've submitted through the Microsoft Team chat window over the course of the presentation.

Questions (2)

- ◆ Within a category (e.g. ecological and environmental assessments), is it necessary to apply for all services (biological studies and investigations, environmental impact assessment and archaeological assessment)?
- ◆ Obviously, if it is possible to obtain certain details in terms of what is expected for services in each discipline, as well as the approximate volume (%) of work expected for each discipline (in relation to the whole), that would be of interest.
- ◆ Will it be possible to include/consider subcontractors?
- ◆ Will it be necessary to include prices for laboratories?

27

Question 1: Katherine Ness from Senexen asked, “Within a category (e.g. ecological and environmental assessments), is it necessary to apply for all services (biological studies and investigations, environmental impact assessment and archaeological assessment)?”

Answer 1: Mario answered that any compliant offer must provide services in all of the categories/disciplines stated on the LOI, which will be included in the upcoming RFSO.

Question 2: Katherine’s next question is, “Obviously, if it is possible to obtain certain details in terms of what is expected for services in each discipline, as well as the approximate volume (%) of work expected for each discipline (in relation to the whole), that would be of interest.”

Answer 2: Mario answered that most call-ups will require the offeror to provide all of the listed services. PSPC doesn’t have a breakdown of costs by discipline, as the basis of pricing for the standing offers will likely rest on hourly rates per resource category (labour positions such as Senior Lead, Resident Engineer, Junior Technologist, etc.)

Question 3: Katherine also asked “will it be possible to include/consider subcontractors?”

Answer 3: Mario stated that the answer is “yes.” Firms may also seek partnerships or joint ventures in order to offer all of the services/disciplines that are required in the RFSO.

Question 4: Finally, Katherine asked “will it be necessary to include prices for laboratories?”

Answer 4: Mario answered that the basis of pricing will not have a category for laboratories. However, individual call-ups account for disbursement and travel costs.

Questions (3)

- ◆ There are four subject areas covered by the DISO:
Environmental management and compliance; contaminated sites consulting services; construction planning, design and supervision related to environmental projects; and ecological and environmental assessments. Some firms may only be able to supply services in one of these four subject areas. What is the likelihood of these firms being awarded a DISO?
- ◆ Will the DISO only cover work directly for PWGSC, or for other federal departments as well and, if so, which other departments?

28

Question 5: Richard Remnant from North/South Consultants Inc. asks, “There are four subject areas covered by the DISO: Environmental management and compliance; contaminated sites consulting services; construction planning, design and supervision related to environmental projects; and ecological and environmental assessments. Some firms may only be able to supply services in one of these four subject areas. What is the likelihood of these firms being awarded a DISO?”

Answer 5: Mario noted that this question is similar to the question posed earlier by Katherine. The answer remains that each offeror is expected to provide all of these services in order to submit a compliant offer.

Question 6: Richard also asks, “Will the DISO only cover work directly for PWGSC, or for other federal departments as well and, if so, which other departments?”

Answer 6: Mario indicated that the Departmental Individual Standing Offers (DISOs) issued under the upcoming RFSO are to be used exclusively by PWGSC, however PWGSC will be using the standing offers while leading projects on behalf of a variety of other government departments, as presented earlier by Chris.

Questions (4)

- Looking at the example work types posted, we don't see "Environmental Auditing". This work type was designated as RS8 in your previous RFP. Has this work type been removed from the upcoming RFP?
- Can you elaborate and give examples of the kinds of work/studies that you will be expecting to be required under the "Air Quality" work type?
- Can you elaborate and give examples of the kinds of work/studies that you will be expecting to requires under the "Potable Water" work type?

29

Question 7: Justin Lipman from Parsons asks, "Looking at the example work types posted, we don't see "Environmental Auditing". This work type was designated as RS8 in your previous RFP [RFSO]. Has this work type been removed from the upcoming RFP [RFSO]?"

Answer 7: Matthew Irvine answered that, no, it has not been removed. Environmental auditing services will be included as part of the upcoming RFSO."

Question 8: Justin's second question is "Can you elaborate and give examples of the kinds of work/studies that you will be expecting to be required under the "Air Quality" work type?"

Answer 8: Matthew replied that the types of projects in this category include, but are not limited to, mould assessments, indoor air quality assessments, radon assessments, air emission monitoring , developing scopes of work for abatement projects including air monitoring during and after abatement as necessary.

Question 9: Justin's third question is "Can you elaborate and give examples of the kinds of work/studies that you will be expecting to requires under the "Potable Water" work type?"

Answer 9: Matthew responded that it will typically include the sampling of potable water sources to determine compliance with Health Canada's *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality* along with recommendations for action if potable water sources show any exceedances to the HC guideline.

Questions (5)

- Will “Energy Management” related studies be included in the RFP?
- When will the RFP be issued and how long will proponents have to respond?
- Will the scoring/points system for this upcoming RFP be the same as your last RFP?
- Will the Ontario Region be included in a RFP in the near future?

30

Question 10: Justin’s fourth question is “Will “Energy Management” related studies be included in the RFP [RFSO]?”

Answer 10: Matthew answered that energy management related studies will not be included in the RFP [RFSO]. However, for the purposes of auditing federal facilities for environmental compliance “energy management” is an environmental issue that should be included and assessed / considered.

Question 11: Justin’s fifth question is “When will the RFP [RFSO] be issued and how long will proponents have to respond?”

Answer 11: Mario answered that once the RFSO is posted to buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders this fall, offerors will have a minimum of 40 calendar days to submit their offer.

Question 12: Justin’s sixth question is “Will the scoring/points system for this upcoming RFP [RFSO] be the same as your last RFP [RFSO]?”

Answer 12: Mario answered that the evaluation criteria and basis of selection are currently being developed and subject to change, however we expect them to be similar, although not necessarily the same, as those from the previous North and South tool RFSOs and Bio Tool RFP.

Question 13: Justin’s last question is “Will Ontario Region be included in a RFP [RFSO] in the near future?”

Answer 13: Mario answered that Ontario is currently managing their own standing offers for environmental services requirements, so the short answer is “no.” However, our team in the Western Region has been sharing ideas with our colleagues in the Ontario region to improve our RFSO and bring more consistency in the way that we develop and administer our procurement tools.

Questions (6)

- ◆ Will this [information session] be recorded?
- ◆ Can you advise if the RFSO document will be similar in structure/format to the previous RFSOs for the previous tools?
- ◆ Will this presentation be posted to buyandsell.gc.ca?
- ◆ Will subcontractors be allowed to participate in multiple bids or are they restricted to teaming with one proponent only?

31

Question 14: Jason Combe from Pinchin asked, “will this be recorded?”

Answer 14: Mario answered that, no, the information session is not recorded on video, but that PSPC will publicly share the presentation slides, the attendance register and a transcript of the questions and answers as an amendment to the letter of interest on buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders. This way, everyone can access the information whether they attended the session or not. The attendance register could be useful for those seeking partnerships or joint ventures.

Question 15: Tanya Shanoff from Stantec asked, “can you advise if the RFSO document will be similar in structure/format to the previous RFSOs for the previous tools?”

Answer 15: Mario answered that the RFSO will be similar in structure to the previous “North Tool” and “South Tool” RFSOs, since it will be using the same base template. However, there may be important differences in terms of the requirement definition document (normally the Annex “A” of a solicitation document for those who are familiar with them), the evaluation criteria, the call-up procedures, and other items that were mentioned in this presentation.

Question 16: Craig Wells from Wood PLC asked, “will this presentation be posted to buyandsell.gc.ca?”

Answer 16: Mario answered that, yes, this presentation will be posted as an amendment to the letter of interest on buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders along with the attendance register and a transcript of the questions and answers.

Question 17: David Kettlewell from SNC-Lavalin asked, “will subcontractors be allowed to participate in multiple bids or will they be restricted to teaming with one proponent only?”

Answer 17: Mario answered that subcontractors—or subconsultants—are not typically part of the offers themselves, since the standing offer agreements are between PSPC and the prime consultant. Subconsultants may discuss or establish their relationships with the prime consultants.

Questions (7)

- ◆ In the past for proponent teams, PSPC has typically only allowed the Prime Proponent to demonstrate experience through the project profiles. Given the broad scope of the procurement, will PSPC allow for the project profiles to demonstrate the experience of Proponent Team and just the Prime Proponent?
- ◆ Will experience be limited to the RFSO region only?
- ◆ Could you please elaborate on the use of subconsultants' experience in the corporate experience evaluation?

32

Question 18: Jay Drew from AECOM asked, “in the past for proponent [consultant] teams, PSPC has typically only allowed the prime proponent [consultant] to demonstrate experience through the project profiles. Given the broad scope of the procurement, will PSPC allow for the project profiles to demonstrate the experience of the proponent [consultant] team and not just the prime proponent [consultant]?”

Answer 18: Chris answered that yes, PSPC wants to approach the proposals in this manner, however they still need to discuss the issue a bit further.

Question 19: Jason Combe from Pinchin asked, “will experience be limited to the RFSO region only?”

Answer 19: Mario replied that the answer depends on how PSPC writes the evaluation criteria. There will be a common set of criteria among all streams as well as particular criteria for certain streams, so the experience requirements may be split in a similar fashion. PSPC is writing the criteria this way to reduce the number of pages in the solicitation document.

Question 20: Nick Oke from Tetra Tech asked, “Could you elaborate on the use of subconsultants' experience in the corporate experience evaluation?”

Answer 20: Chris answered that the evaluation criteria is not finalized yet.

Thank you!

Mario Giguère

780-246-0393

mario.giguere@pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca



This concludes our information session. Once more,

- If your firm cannot offer all of the services required for this RFSO, look at forming joint ventures or finding subconsultants
- register in the Inuit Firm Register should you be interested in complying with the requirements of the Nunavut Stream
- get a head-start on obtaining industrial security
- remember to look on buyandsell.gc.ca/tenders this fall for the RFSO

Thank you!