



SHARED SERVICES CANADA

Invitation to Qualify for the HPC Weather Cloud Challenge Demonstration

Invitation to Qualify No.	HPC21-001	Date	September 28 th , 2021
GCDocs File No.	N/A	GETS Reference No.	PW-21-00967713

This Amendment is issued to Publish Canada's Responses to potential Respondent's questions. All the terms and conditions of the ITQ remain unchanged.



THIS SOLICITATION AMENDMENT IS ISSUED TO:

1. Publish Canada's Responses to Bidders' questions.

NOTE: Respondents' clarification questions are numerically sequenced upon arrival at SSC.

1. CANADA'S RESPONSES TO QUALIFIED RESPONDENTS QUESTIONS

Question 1:

1.3 Overview of the Anticipated ITQ Process

What is the intended timeline for release of the RFI and RFP?

Canada's Response to Question 1:

There is no timeline yet established for any follow up RFI process, as described in 1.3(c), there is no certainty of an RFI being completed. There is no plan to issue any RFP as a direct result of this ITQ process.

Question 2:

1.3 Overview of the Anticipated ITQ Process

Please describe Canada's preferred approach to the contractual process. Note that to contract directly with a Cloud Services Provider, there would need to be a means of leveraging the existing Cloud Enterprise Agreement, as was incorporated into the GC Cloud Services Procurement Vehicle (32099).

Canada's Response to Question 2:

This ITQ process is a stand alone process that will not lead to an RFP. It should also be mentioned this ITQ process will not lead to a GC Cloud Services contract.



Question 3:

General Information

Would Canada consider leveraging the pre-existing GC Cloud Services Procurement Vehicle (32099) to access HPC services? If not, what terms will govern the resulting RFP?

Canada's Response to Question 3:

This ITQ process is to enable Canada to gain knowledge regarding the use of cloud-based HPC for weather applications. No RFP will result from this ITQ.

Question 4:

General Information

Have SSC and ECCC engaged the cloud-brokering shop at SSC for help and guidance?

Canada's Response to Question 4:

Canada will not be providing a response to this question as it does not relate to the ITQ process.

Question 5:

1.2 Overview of the Project

Will there be on-premises systems that will need to be managed/supported in addition to cloud HPC?

Canada's Response to Question 5:

For the purposes of this ITQ, there will be no on-premises systems that need to be managed/supported in addition to the cloud resources being sought.

Question 6:

2.3 Submission of One Response

What constitutes "respondent" vs "subcontractor"? If a Vendor X partner decides to respond to the ITQ with a solution that uses Vendor X Cloud technology (with or without our knowledge) does this mean that Vendor X is a "subcontractor" under the partner submission or is Vendor X considered a "respondent"? Will this work the same way for other Cloud Service Providers e.g. Microsoft, AWS, IBM, etc. ?



Canada's Response to Question 6:

We believe this is outlined in section 2.3, "Submission of One Response". The intent of this ITQ is to ensure that each respondent that is completing a submission is certifying that it does not consider itself to be related to any other respondent.

Question 7:

SOW Section 3.1.8(e)i Security

If we (Vendor X) submit a direct response does this preclude us from using partners on any future bid(s) (assuming we qualify) related to the ITQ? At this point in time there is not enough information about the end-state solution/requirements to know if it makes sense to involve partners at this stage. If we submit directly we want to make sure it will not prevent us from including partners or sub-contractors during the next stage(s) if required. Please confirm/advise.

Canada's Response to Question 7:

No, a response to this ITQ will not result in being excluded from any future competitive process. There is no plan to issue an RFP in relation to this ITQ Process. Canada is strictly trying to gain knowledge regarding the use of Cloud-Based HPC for weather applications. The same is true of any partners your organization may employ or work with. Participating in this ITQ will not adversely affect their ability to bid on future procurements.