



Solicitation No. T8080-210210
Advance Contract Award Notice

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

BACKGROUND:

Transport Canada (TC) owns eighteen (18) local/regional and remote airport facilities and operates fourteen (14) of these facilities, for which TC holds the operating certificate and is responsible for the day-to-day operations.

Of these 14 airport facilities, eight are operated by TC employees and six airports are operated through an operating and maintenance contract.

TC owned and operated airports employ safety management systems, as required by the Canadian Aviation Regulations (CARs) to proactively manage safety issues in its airport operations. The objective is to keep TC airports among the safest in the world by creating or controlling situations rather than just responding reactively to them.

As part of their day to day operations, 6 of the 14 airports currently use an online software system to document and manage safety and maintenance issues as well as for reporting on incidents and managing corrective action plans. Depending on the needs of each location, the current software system provides modules that can facilitate the monitoring of various areas of airport operations, including safety concerns, risks, work orders, planned maintenance, wildlife observation, strike response and reporting, and management of personnel training records.

It is important to note that essential safety data necessary to effectively implement SMS is compiled from both proactive and reactive safety-related activities. SMS regulatory requirements for risk management and corrective action plans are advanced immensely when software functionality provides a tool to collect, analyse and take necessary action on operational safety data.

Data management software, such as Vortex, meets TC goals for digital transformation and an agile workforce and enhances TC's capacity for ongoing compliance with SMS regulatory requirements. Accordingly, TC supports the deployment of software-based SMS tools at all TC-owned and operated airports and is leading an initiative to bring all 14 airports onboard with a common SMS software platform.

DEFINITION OF REQUIREMENTS:

Transport Canada has a requirement for a web-based software platform for the management of SMS and to capture and manage airport operational information at Transport Canada owned and operated airports across Canada. The software must have the capability to document hazard identification and related risk mitigating actions, as well as integrate operations and technical systems with the management of financial and human resources. In addition, the software should provide data entry functionality, record keeping, tracking of hazards and incidents, goal and objective setting and the ability to generate work orders for



corrective action, including consequence management and monitoring. This functionality constitutes minimum requirements for compliance with the CARs.

The software must facilitate data collection related to events scaling from minor deficiencies to major safety concerns and other reported occurrences. It is also critical that the software is capable of functional escalation, which triggers and informs an integrated safety assurance process and ensures all issues are documented and tracked for corrective action in a manner well-organized for audit.

Finally, reliable safety data reporting functions which allow for trending and other safety analysis to be conducted easily by an engaged airport staff, stakeholders, public users, and the accountable airport management team is an important requirement.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF THE STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES (MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Transport Canada is seeking a service provider who can provide a software platform that meets all of the mandatory requirements set out below. Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets these requirements:

- The software must be provided by a service provider who has a proven track record, as defined by at least five (5) years of delivering an online-based “software as a service” platform that caters specifically to airport operators and their related operational and regulatory compliance requirements.
- The service provider must have significant experience (defined as a minimum of 5 years) in providing support to airport operators and the SMS processes associated with airports, including:
 - a. 24/7 emergency technical support.
 - b. Capacity to quickly develop and support new modules that target specific identified needs of the airport operator
 - c. Redundant hosting of the software platform.
 - d. Real-time and daily backup of data.
 - e. Ability for unlimited user accounts.
 - f. Capability to customize fields and functionality by location.
- The service provider must provide, as a minimum, a software platform with the capability to seamlessly provide the following functions, either as modules or an integrated part of the software:
 - a. The software **must** have the capability to document hazard identification and related risk mitigating actions, as well as integrate operations and technical systems with the management of financial and human resources.
 - b. The software **must** provide data entry functionality, record keeping, tracking of hazards and incidents, goal and objective setting and the ability to generate work orders for corrective action, including consequence management and monitoring.
 - c. The software **must** have the functionality to track leases/licences and enable users to track tenant records including contracts, permits, maps/drawings, issues and notes.
 - d. The software **must** facilitate data collection related to events scaling from minor deficiencies to major safety concerns and other reported occurrences, along with auto GIS-location in order to link data records.
 - e. The software **must** be capable of functional escalation, which triggers and informs an integrated safety assurance process and ensures all issues are documented and tracked for corrective action in a manner well-organized for audit
 - f. The software **must** be reliable for safety data reporting functions which allow for trending and other safety analysis to be conducted easily by an engaged airport staff, stakeholders, public users, and the accountable airport management team is an important requirement



APPLICABILITY OF THE TRADE AGREEMENT(S) TO THE PROCUREMENT:

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreements

- *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)*
- *Revised World Trade Organization - Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP)*
- *Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)*
- *Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*
- *Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA)*
- *Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement*
- *Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement*
- *Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement*
- *Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement*
- *Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA)*
- *Canada-United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement (Canada-UK TCA)*
- *Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA)*

JUSTIFICATION FOR PRE-IDENTIFIED SUPPLIER:

Transport Canada intends to enter into a sole source contract with Vortex Software Canada Inc., 318-68 Songhees Rd. Victoria, BC, V9A 0A3 the software publisher of Vortex for the purpose of procurement of the VORTEX software platform. Vortex is the only known supplier that meets all the mandatory criteria set out in the section above. Specifically, Vortex is unique in that it integrates specialized modules that go beyond basic SMS data collection and allow airport operators to consolidate the management and implementation of critical activities, such as work orders, training and expense/inventory tracking, in one self-contained system.

Should Canada receive a statement of capabilities from a supplier that contains sufficient information to indicate that it meets the requirements set forth in this ACAN, a competitive process will be triggered with a technical and financial evaluation methodology of the bids proposed by the potential bidders.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS REGULATIONS EXCEPTION:

The following exception(s) to the Government Contracts Regulations is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection 6 (d) that states “only one person or firm is capable of performing the contract”

OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest with VORTEX.



PERIOD OF THE PROPOSED CONTRACT:

The proposed contract is for **3 years** commencing from Contract award to October 30 2024.

Optional Requirement

1. 4th year one year option period of software support and maintenance
2. 5th year one year option period of software support and maintenance
3. 6th year one year option period of software support and maintenance

ESTIMATE COST:

The estimated value of the contract including option years is \$1,354,293.00

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRE-IDENTIFIED SUPPLIER:

Company Name: Vortex Software Canada Inc.,

Address: 318-68 Songhees Rd. Victoria, BC, V9A 0A3

SUPPLIERS' RIGHT TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this notice on or before the closing date of this notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

CLOSING DATE FOR A SUBMISSION OF A STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is October 27 2021 at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

INQUIRIES AND SUBMISSION OF STATEMENT OF CAPABILITIES:

Inquiries and Statement of Capabilities are to be directed to:

Name: Jianna-Lee Zomer

Title: A/Manager, Procurement

Department: Transport Canada

Tel: 343-550-2324

Email: jianna-lee.zomer@tc.gc.ca