

The Laser Range Finder – Hand Held Thermal Imager –
Long Range (LRF HHTI-LR)

W8476-226536

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION(RFI)

W8476-226536

Original

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1 Purpose and Objectives of this Industry Engagement

1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to inform and obtain feedback from industry on the upcoming procurement process for the Department of National Defence's requirement to procure, integrate and support a Laser Range Finder – Hand Held Thermal Imager – Long Range (LRF HHTI-LR) System. Linkages to the Night Vision System Modernization (NVSM) Project and its previously posted RFI, as well as the overarching Integrated Soldier System Project, are described below in more detail.
- 1.1.2 Public Services & Procurement Canada's (PSPC) intent from this RFI is to engage industry in a consultative process by seeking responses to Canada's questions to fully understand industry's current LRF HHTI-LR technical capabilities, sustainment approach and affordability. Ideally, PSPC will leverage the expertise required to develop an efficient and effective procurement strategy that both achieves the project's objectives and provides best value to Canada.
- 1.1.3 PSPC requests that industry provides the written feedback requested at Annex C "Questions for Industry" via email to the Contracting Authority.
- 1.1.4 This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of this consultative process with industry are to:

- 1.2.1 provide a continuous single point of official project communication with industry;
- 1.2.2 fully understand potential LRF HHTI-LR solutions that the market has to offer;
- 1.2.3 ensure Canada's expectations for engagement are clear and easy for industry to understand;
- 1.2.4 provide industry with a "Draft System Technical Specifications", Annex A, and request industry to provide details of the most technically advanced solution available that could potentially satisfy this specification;
- 1.2.5 invite industry to engagement activities such as Industry Day events, site visits, one-on-one meetings, and other potential activities;
- 1.2.6 answer questions from industry on the "Buy & Sell" website to ensure all interested participants receive the same information;

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- 1.2.7 learn of industry's interest and potential sources of supply and industrial capabilities for the proposed solution that are both sustainable and affordable;
- 1.2.8 ask industry to come up with one or more network solutions that possibly meet the requirements of the system requirements specification;
- 1.2.9 request industry to provide indicative cost estimates for each component of the proposed solution and indicate possible sources of supply and possible industrial capabilities for the proposed system;
- 1.2.10 obtain information on the impacts of procurement restrictions on potential future maintenance needs - including things like intellectual property (IP) rights, collaboration in the supply chain, etc.;
- 1.2.11 gather industry knowledge, expertise and recommendations with regard to best practices that would increase the success of the solicitation and identify any risks that would impact the solicitation;
- 1.2.12 obtain information on current market capacity and industry interest, including comments on issues that could affect the ability to bid on a subsequent bid solicitation or to meet the requirements of the ministry;
- 1.2.13 enhance competition, access and fairness of the resulting solicitation;
- 1.2.14 request industry's feedback on the planned procurement process;
- 1.2.15 inform industry and the government to ensure that the formal RFP process moves forward efficiently and has a high probability of success;
- 1.2.16 inform Canada of opportunities to leverage economic benefits, such as the Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy; and
- 1.2.17 inform industry on any other policies that may apply to a resulting solicitation

2 Requirement

2.1 System Description

- 2.1.1 The Laser Range Finder – Hand Held Thermal Imager – Long Range (LRF HHTI-LR) is a hand-held binocular device with a laser range finder, cooled thermal channel and secondary channel for day and low light conditions. It will be used by soldiers and sailors to enable the timely detection, recognition, identification and geolocation of objects of interest under varying conditions of light and visibility. The LRF HHTI-LR will provide a capability for the accurate geolocation of targets, and the onwards transmission of target geolocation data to other systems. Imagery produced by the LRF HHTI-LR will be saved for onward transfer for analysis. The LRF HHTI-LR will be used by the Canadian Army in the combat arms leader, sniper, reconnaissance and other similar roles. It will be used by the Royal Canadian Navy to enhance general situational awareness, by boarding parties, and for security surveillance when in port.
- 2.1.2 The LRF HHTI-LR is supported by a number of other components that are required to provide the full functionality of the system. Other components include batteries, a tripod, various accessories to interface the LRF HHTI-LR to other systems and external power sources, pouches for carriage in the field, and containers for storage and logistic transport. Collectively, the LRF HHTI-LR and associated components are referred to as the LRF HHTI-LR System.
- 2.1.3 The LRF HHTI-LR System includes bespoke ATAK plug-ins that provide the functionality that supports the interface between the LRF HHTI-LR and the Integrated Soldier System (ISS).
- 2.1.4 System requirements are provided in the draft LRF HHTI-LR System Requirements Specification (SRS), provided as Annex A.

2.2 Procurement Approach

- 2.2.1 The initial quantity of LRF HHTI-LRS Units will be procured by the Integrated Soldier System Project (ISS-P) through available approved funding, while optional quantities of LRF HHTI-LRS Units will be funded by the Night Vision System Modernization (NVSM) project.
- 2.2.2 The LRF HHTI-LR Unit will be procured as a military off-the-shelf (MOTS) item, while other components of the System will be a mix of commercial off-the-shelf (COTS), MOTS and purpose built.
- 2.2.3 Procurement will be through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP), using the Government Electronic Tendering System "Buy and Sell". It is anticipated that the RFP will result in two contracts awarded to a single Bidder, one contract for acquisition and one for sustainment.
- 2.2.4 **Quantities:** LRF HHTI-LRS Systems will be procured in the following quantities:

Initial Firm Purchase: approximately 200
Optional Purchase: approximately 150

2.3 Linkage to NVSM Project RFI – W8476-216347

- 2.3.1 The requirement for the LRF HHTI-LR was initially communicated to industry within the scope of the NVSM Project RFI, Solicitation No. W8476-216347. At that time, the system to be procured was referred to as the Hand Held Thermal Imager – Long Range (HHTI-LR), and was one of seven discrete systems to be procured within the scope of the NVSM Project.
- 2.3.2 This RFI is a result of a division of splitting a defined segment of scope from the NVSM project into a new procurement path involving the ISS-P. As such, any information submitted related to the HHTI-LR by industry in response to the NVSM Project RFI is deemed to be valid, unless Canada is informed otherwise by industry.

3 Legislation, Trade Agreements, and Government Policies

3.1 Potential Scope and Constraints

- 3.1.1 A National Security Exception and/or National Security Exception – Special Contracting Caveat maybe invoked in the resulting procurement process.
- 3.1.2 This Request for Information is not subject to the Controlled Goods Program, however any resulting competitive process may have a Controlled Goods Program requirement. For information pertaining to the Controlled Goods Program, please refer to the Public Services and Procurement Canada website: [Navigating Public Services and Procurement Canada's Controlled Goods Program website – Controlled goods: Examining, possessing or transferring – Canada.ca \(tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/controlled-goods-program)
- 3.1.3 The Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity will apply to the upcoming competitive procurement process. Further details on the Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity will be communicated on <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> as part of the upcoming competitive procurement process.
- 3.1.4 There is no security requirement associated with this Request for Information, however, security requirements may be associated with any resulting procurement processes. Additional information on the security requirements will be communicated on <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> as part of any upcoming competitive procurement processes.
- 3.1.5 For information on personnel and organization security screening or security clauses, please refer to the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate, Industrial and Security Program of Public Services and Procurement Canada website: [Security requirements for contracting with the Government of Canada – Canada.ca \(tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca\)](https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/security-requirements-for-contracting-with-the-government-of-canada).
- 3.1.6 Under the ITB Policy, companies awarded defence procurement contracts are required to undertake business activities in Canada, equal to the value of the contract. In addition, a core element of the ITB Policy is a rated and weighted Value Proposition. Further information regarding the ITB Policy can be found at www.ic.gc.ca/itb.

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- 3.1.7 Any additional information on the potential scope and constraints will be communicated on <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> as part of any competitive process.

3.2 Legislation, Trade Agreements, and Government Policies

The following is a list of some legislations and government policies that will govern the upcoming competitive procurement processes:

- a) Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)
- b) Defence Production Act
- c) Defence Procurement Strategy (DPS)
- d) Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity (FCP-EE)
- e) Government Contract Regulations (GCR)
- f) PSPC Policy on Green Procurement
- g) ITB Policy
- h) Aboriginal Policy (pending, TBA)
- i) Software Licencing

Any additional information pertaining to Legislation and Government Policies will be communicated on <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> as they become available throughout the period of this Request for Information or as part of any resulting competitive procurement processes.

4 Target Schedule:

The following is the tentative schedule associated with both the RFI and potential procurement process:

Industry Engagement

Registration of Interested Suppliers – no later than 1 December 2021

Posting of bilingual Industry Day Presentation - December 2021

Virtual One-on-One Meetings 8 to 10 December 2021 (TBC)

Deadline for RFI Submissions Feb 2022

RFI Closing March 2022

Posting of Draft RFP May – June 2022

Posting of RFP: August - September 2022

Departmental & Governmental Approvals: November 2022

Potential Contract Award: December 2022

Any changes to the tentative schedule will be communicated on <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> as they become available throughout the period of this Request for Information.

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Amd. No. - N° de la modif.

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur

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5 Response Instructions and Information

5.1 Nature and Format of Responses Requested

- 5.1.1 PSPC is seeking input and responses covering important elements of the requirement prior to determining or finalizing a procurement strategy.
- 5.1.2 Respondents must contact the Contracting Authority to book a virtual One-on-One Meeting with Canada and to receive the Industry Day Presentation Speaking Notes. One-hour virtual meetings will be scheduled on a first come basis during the week of 6 December 2021. Advanced copies of all presentation are requested to ensure connectivity during the meeting.
- 5.1.3 Respondents are invited to provide comments regarding the content of Annexes A, B, and C requirements included in this RFI. This RFI contains specific questions (Annex C “Questions to Industry”) addressed to the industry. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their interpretation of the requirements.
- 5.1.4 Respondents are requested to provide their responses via email and only to the Contracting Authority identified below. Submission using CD ROMs or DVDs or thumb drives cannot be accepted.
- 5.1.5 Respondents may provide documents, information, or data as “commercial-in-confidence” and, if identified as such, will be treated accordingly by Canada. Assessment of all information provided by suppliers will be reviewed by Canada’s representatives, including contracted resources under non-disclosure agreements. Canada reserves the right to re-use any information to assist in obtaining project approvals and in consultation with both national and international stakeholders. Project requirements are subject to change, which may be as a result of information provided in response to this RFI. Participants are advised that any information submitted to Canada in response to this RFI may or may not be used by Canada in the development of the potential subsequent RFP. The issuance of this RFI does not create an obligation for Canada to issue a subsequent RFP and does not bind Canada legally or otherwise, to enter into any agreement or to accept or reject any suggestions.
- 5.1.6 Respondents are encouraged to clearly identify in writing if they feel any information shared with Canada is commercial-in-confidence, proprietary, third party, or personal. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g. in response to a request under the Access to Information and Privacy Act) to disclose proprietary or commercially-sensitive information concerning a Respondent. For more information: <http://lawslois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>.
- 5.1.7 Respondents are asked to identify in writing if their response, or any part of their response, is subject to the Controlled Goods Regulations.
- 5.1.8 Participation in this RFI is encouraged but is not mandatory. There will be no shortlisting of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

5.2 Response Costs

PSPC will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred responding to this RFI.

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5.3 Use of Responses

- 5.3.1 Responses will not be formally evaluated. The responses received may be used by PSPC to develop or modify procurement strategies or any draft documents. PSPC will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. PSPC may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date;
- 5.3.2 A review team composed of representatives of PSPC, ISEDC, and the Department of National Defence (DND) will review the responses. PSPC reserves the right to hire any independent consultant or use any Government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

5.4 Confidentiality

- 5.4.1 Respondents should indicate and mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. PSPC will handle these portions in a confidential manner in accordance with the Access to Information Act of Canada.
- 5.4.2 Although the information collected may be provided as commercial-in-confidence (and, if identified as such, will be treated accordingly by Canada), Canada may use the information to assist in drafting performance specifications (which are subject to change) and for budgetary purposes.
- 5.4.3 Respondents are encouraged to identify, in the information they share with Canada, any information that they feel is proprietary, third party or personal information. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g. in response to a request under the Access of Information and Privacy Act) to disclose proprietary or commercially-sensitive information concerning a respondent (for more information: <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>).

5.5 Follow-up Activity

- 5.5.1 PSPC may, at its discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response. PSPC may, at its discretion agree to meet with respondents to provide respondents with the opportunity to present and/or demonstrate their capabilities in relation to this RFI.
- 5.5.2 Respondents' presentations are at no obligation to PSPC and respondents will be responsible for all costs associated with PSPC's invitation to make a presentation.

5.6 PSPC Contracting Authority

- 5.6.1 All information, communication or correspondence must be directed to the Contracting Authority ONLY, in writing via email and in either official language of Canada to the PSPC Contract Authority identified below. No other member or representative of the Government of Canada can be informed, challenged, or otherwise communicated with, including carbon copy or blind carbon copy on any verbal, emails or written correspondence regarding this RFI.

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- 5.6.2 Interested Respondents are required to submit their responses to the PSPC Contracting Authority, identified below, electronically in MS Word, PDF or compatible formats, via email, and each email no larger than 8MB in size:

Name: Tanya Xiao
Title: Supply Specialist
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Defense and Marine Procurement Branch
Address: Place du Portage, Phase III 8C2, 11 Laurier Street
Telephone: 873-355-1225
E-mail: tanya.xiao@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

- 5.6.3 Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS), <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> A point of contact for the Respondent should be included within all correspondence.
- 5.6.4 Canada strongly recommends that any interested parties subscribe to receiving automatic updates or changes to this RFI via the e-mail alert service available at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/> Additional information may be found at <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/p/procurement-data/tenders/follow-opportunities>.

5.7 Official Languages

Responses to this RFI are requested to be presented in either of the Official Languages of Canada.

5.8 Closing Date for the RFI

Responses to this RFI are to be submitted to the PSPC Contracting Authority identified above, on or before the RFI requested deadline.

Closing date published herein is not the deadline for comments or input from industry. Comments and input will be accepted any time up to the publishing of any follow-on solicitation.

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ANNEXES

ANNEX A – DRAFT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS SPECIFICATION

ANNEX B - INDUSTRIAL & TECHNOLOGICAL BENEFITS (ITB) POLICY INFORMATION

ANNEX C – QUESTIONS FOR INDUSTRY

Please see attached