



Advanced Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

1. ACAN

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.

2. Definition of the Requirement

Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) has a requirement to evaluate the interdependencies of water, energy and agriculture in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The work will involve the following:

- a) A literature review and gaps analysis;
- b) A series of interviews with relevant government representatives, stakeholders and thought leaders in Alberta and Saskatchewan;
- c) A written final report, including summarized findings and a series of recommendations, provided to PrairiesCan.
- d) A final presentation summarizing findings, presented to PrairiesCan.

3. Criteria for Assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- a) Expertise in conducting research and analysis;
- b) Extensive knowledge of interdependencies of the water-energy-food nexus in the prairie region of Canada, including concerns regarding land use and availability;
- c) Established contacts with industry, academia and other relevant organizations throughout the prairie region of Canada.

4. Applicability of the Trade Agreement(s)

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s):

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) (T.B. 10.2.8(b)) are applicable. With the absence of competition for technical reasons and that the services can only be supplied by Company X and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists is the basis for the limited tendering.

5. Set-aside Under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Businesses

N/A

6. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements

N/A

7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

WaterSMART Solutions Ltd. is a leading water strategy development firm in western Canada. WaterSMART is unique to the prairies, specializing in water and providing a wide range of services including technical consulting services (e.g. economic analysis, hydrologic and water resources modelling), policy and strategy development services, and stakeholder facilitation support. With several ongoing projects related to the requirements of this study, WaterSMART is uniquely positioned to meet PrairiesCan objectives - namely, an analysis of limitations and opportunities within the water-energy-food nexus - within tight timelines. The firm also has extensive contacts and a good reputation in the field of water strategy development, as well as with the agri-food and resource industries, and can quickly identify and contact suitable candidates for stakeholder interviews.

In a previous contract, WaterSMART has demonstrated a proven ability to deliver high quality results on tight deadline. The proposed value of this contract is assessed as fair and reasonable, given the nature and complexity of the work, as well as the extremely tight timelines that have been identified.



8. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

Section 6(d) of the *Government Contracting Regulations* permits the contracting authority to set aside the requirement to solicit bids.

9. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

The North American Free Trade Agreement, the World Trade Organization – Agreement on Government Procurement, and the Agreement on Internal Trade permit the contracting authority to set aside the requirement to solicit bids under section 10.2.8(b) of the Treasury Board Secretariat Contracting Policy.

10. Ownership of Intellectual Property

We do not anticipate new intellectual property be created during the course of the contract. Canada intends to retain ownership of the final reports arising out of the contract. Knowledge generated by literature review and stakeholder interviews will be shared upon request with pertinent stakeholders.

11. Period of the Proposed Contract or Delivery Date

The proposed contract is for a period of 4.5 months, from December 13, 2021 to April 29, 2022.

12. Cost Estimate of the Proposed Contract

The estimated value of the contract, including option(s), is \$90,000 (including GST).

13. Name and Address of the Pre-Identified Supplier

WaterSMART Solutions Inc.
605, 839 5th Avenue SW
Calgary Alberta T2P 3C8

14. Supplier's Right to Submit a Statement of Capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction 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.

15. Closing Date for a Submission of a Statement of Capabilities

CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR WRITTEN SUPPLIER RESPONSES CHALLENGING THIS REQUIREMENT IS 2:00 P.M, EASTERN TIME, 2021-12-17

16. Inquiries and Submission of Statements of Capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Michelle Owens
Procurement Manager

9700 Jasper Ave NE
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4H7
Canada

Telephone: (780)495-4217
E-mail: michelle.owens@canada.ca