

**COLD WEATHER LAYERING SYSTEM
TRIAL AND EVALUATION COORDINATION SERVICES
ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)**

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (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

The Canadian Special Operations Forces Command (CANSOFCOM), on behalf of the Department of National Defence (DND), has a mandate to have the capability to operate in all climatic conditions worldwide including the extreme cold of the Arctic. This capability is directly enabled, or limited, by the clothing systems available to be worn by those conducting the operations. The current cold weather clothing system used by CANSOFCOM provides human body core protection to -15°C; whereas the temperature in the Arctic climate zone can reach -50°C or lower. CANSOFCOM is currently pursuing the acquisition of a Cold Weather Layering System (CWLS) that is capable of providing protection to operators in the Arctic environment.

To support the CWLS acquisition, CANSOFCOM is seeking a third-party Subject Matter Expert (SME) to provide expertise, planning and execution of extreme cold weather winter training, trials and user evaluations. More specifically, CANSOFCOM is seeking an external advisor with advanced knowledge and experience in cold weather operations including the following capabilities:

- The ability to plan and conduct an unbiased assessment of competing CWLS bids
- The ability to understand special operations forces' missions, roles, tasks and challenges within the context of exposing individuals to harsh operating conditions
- The ability to plan realistic assessment trials based upon an in-depth understanding of special operation Techniques, Tactics and Protocols (TTPs)
- The ability to provide sound and timely advice on materials/textiles and how they impact system performance related to military use

2.1 Objective

The objective of this work is to provide Contractor subject-matter expertise to the planning and execution of cold weather trials and evaluations including organizing and preparing for trials conducted in -40°C to -50°C temperatures in a remote northern Arctic location. These preparations include site visits to various northern locations in advance of the trials in order to find a suitable location for the evaluation trials to be conducted.

2.2 Tasks

The provision of work under the contract will be task-based, with each task specifying the work and deliverables required. The specific tasks required by the contractor include, but are not limited to, the following:

2.2.1 CWLS Evaluation Pre-Planning

The Contractor must provide the following in support of the pre-planning for the CWLS evaluations:

- Review of CWLS Request-For-Standing-Offer documentation
- Provision of subject-matter expertise in evaluation trials and methodologies
- Participation in site visits to potential Northern Canadian user evaluation remote locations
- Validation of extreme cold weather evaluation approaches and methodologies

2.2.2 Development of Trials and Evaluations

The Contractor must provide the following in support of the development of CWLS trials and evaluations:

- Participation and facilitation of the development of evaluation trial plans including:
 - Durability assessments
 - Cold/dry weather evaluations
 - Cold/wet weather evaluations
 - Extreme cold weather evaluations
- Participation in the development and implementation of evaluation data collection methodologies

2.2.3 CWLS Trials/Evaluation Support

The Contractor must provide the following in support of the CWLS trials and evaluations:

- Participation in the execution of CWLS trials planned to be conducted over a period of 6-8 months as follows:
 - Durability assessments, conducted in Eastern Canada in the fall and winter time frame, in order to assess the durability of the systems
 - Cold/wet and cold/dry conditions, conducted in Eastern Canada in the fall and winter time frame, in order to assess the systems in temperatures ranging from 5°C down to -40°C
 - Extreme cold conditions, conducted in the Arctic climate zone in winter, in order to assess the systems in temperatures ranging from -40° C down to -50° C
- Participation in the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data from the trial participants
- Validating evaluation findings including participant consensus facilitation, conduct of peer reviews with participating organizations, and expert panel review with external agencies

2.3 Reporting and Communications

The Contractor must:

- Respond to CANSOFCOM queries and concerns
- Provide written reports or other documents as detailed in each task authorization including:
 - Monthly informal reports detailing progress to date and any challenges, obstacles or requirements to future progress
 - Presentations and project related documentation including agenda and minutes for meetings and conferences, and travel visit reports
 - Site visit reports including recommendations on conduct of evaluation trials
 - Final evaluation summary and close-out report
- Provide administrative services to support contract management and task authorizations including:
 - Task cost estimation
 - Tracking and reporting on expenditures in relation to the contract and each individual task authorization
 - Close out action items as it relates to the work conducted under each task

2.4 Constraints

The Contractor must perform the work within the following constraints.

2.4.1 Location of Work

Work must be conducted depending on the task to be completed and as agreed between the Contractor and DND as follows:

- DND on-site locations in Ottawa, Petawawa and Richmond, Ontario
- Third-party locations to conduct trials including Arctic climate zone regions
- Contractor's facility as required

2.4.2 Travel

Travel, at DND expense, will be required for meetings and to conduct trials/evaluations as specified in each Task Authorization.

2.4.3 Language

All work, including written correspondence and reports, must be performed in English.

2.4.4 Security

There are no security requirements associated with this work; however, the Contractor must be escorted at all times when on-site at a DND location.

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:

The supplier must provide one (1) individual who will act as Contract Administrator and One (1) as a Technical Subject-Matter-Expert (SME), or a single individual that will fulfill both roles, as follows:

- Contract Administrator will act as the main point of contact between DND and the contractor and who will oversee the administrative processes of the contract
- Technical SME with expertise in planning, preparation and execution of trials in extreme cold weather conditions (-40°C to -50°C) that must:
 - Have an in-depth understanding of CANSOFCOM TTPs gained through a minimum of five (5) years' experience as an operator in the Command
 - Have a thorough understanding of clothing, textile and equipment interface requirements for operations in extreme cold weather environments
 - A comprehensive knowledge of industry-leading cold weather layering systems in use by partner (i.e., 5-Eyes) special operations organizations

The supplier must have previous experience in developing task-based evaluations that are consistent with CANSOFCOM TTPs.

The supplier must have previous experience in conducting similar cold weather clothing evaluations.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

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

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- Canada Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA)
- Canada Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA)

- Canada Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA)
- Canada Honduras Free Trade Agreement (CHFTA)
- Canada Panama Free Trade Agreement (CPanFTA)
- Canada Columbia Free Trade Agreement (CCoIFTA)

5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

Stoneworks Solutions Inc. is uniquely positioned to provide the services required by CANSOFCOM. The proprietor, Mr. Geoff Stone, was a CANSOFCOM operator for more than ten (10) years and has an intimate understanding of CANSOFCOM TTPs. Furthermore, Mr. Stone spent more than five (5) years in a force development role at CANSOFCOM as the lead for Soldier Systems, which encompasses cold weather clothing and equipment. Mr. Stone's time as an operator included experience in all of the environmental conditions that are the target of this work, and has extensive knowledge of clothing and textile use within those environments including the interface requirements with soldier carried equipment.

As the Soldier System lead in a force development role at CANSOFCOM, Mr. Stone was the principal lead for the development of the requirements for the current in-service weather protective clothing system, providing him unique insight into cold weather layering systems in use by partner special operations organizations. In addition to development of the requirements, Mr. Stone was also the lead for the planning, preparation and execution of the trials and evaluations for the in-service weather protective clothing system. This combination of credentials exclusively positions Stoneworks Solutions Inc. to assist CANSOFCOM by providing an experienced cold weather clothing SME to assist in the development and execution of a complex and robust evaluation plan in support of the CWLS acquisition.

6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the Government Contracts Regulations is invoked for this procurement under subsection:

- *6(d) - "only one person is capable of performing the work"*

7. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of the Background Intellectual Property will vest with the Contractor. Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will jointly vest with the Contractor and Canada.

8. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is for a period of 18 months from Contract Award, tentatively January 25, 2022 to July 1, 2023.

9. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Stoneworks Solutions Inc.
1-165 Patterson Ave
Ottawa, ON, K1S 1Y4

10. Suppliers' 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.

11. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is January 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. EDT.

12. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Adam Cheung

Procurement Officer DLP 8-1, Directorate Land Procurement
Department of National Defence / Government of Canada
Adam.Cheung@forces.gc.ca

Agent de l'approvisionnement DAAT 8-1, Direction des Acquisitions pour l'Armée de Terre
Ministère de la Défense nationale / Gouvernement du Canada
Adam.Cheung@forces.gc.ca