

**Question 1:** In Appendix E (Evaluation Criteria and Financial Evaluation), it is noted that in Table 1- Mandatory Criterion (Stage I), M1 for Stream 2 indicates: “Submitted CVs must demonstrate that the proposed resource meets the minimum qualifications listed in required for Stream 1 in section 7 of the Statement of Requirements, Supplier Resource Requirements and Minimum Qualifications.” Please confirm that this should read Stream 2 and not Stream 1. Please confirm that this same change should apply to Stream 3, Stream 4 and Stream 5.

**Answer 1:** I confirm.

**Question 2:** With respect to clause 2.4 “Tie Score” in Part 2 (Evaluation of Proposals), a coin toss has never been used to determine the selected bidder for an RFP. Would PPS consider an alternative method to selecting the winning bid in the event of a tie?

**Answer 2:** This is a symbolic clause. In a tied situation of the technical and financial, we would review tied proposals rigorously for each of the criteria in order to determine a winner with all the documented justification in the process of the award.

**Question 3:**

In relation to amendment 002, where PPS confirmed their intention “enter into an agreement with one or more legal entities for each Work Stream”, could PPS confirm if they are expecting one (1) submission per stream (i.e. each Stream would consist of its own separate Appendix C – Pricing Structure Form document as well as a document containing the Appendix B – Proposal Submission Form / response to Appendix E – Evaluation Criteria / Appendix F – Project Summary Template)?

**Answer 3:**

Bidder can provide one Pricing Structure Form (Appendix C) and one Proposal Submission Form (Appendix B) for all streams.

We leave it to the supplier's discretion to propose one response to Appendix E – Evaluation Criteria for all streams or for each of the streams. We also leave it to the supplier's discretion to propose two project summaries (Appendix F) for all streams they intend to bid for or two project summaries for each stream.

We are asking though that suppliers provide a copy for each stream in order to have an effective evaluation from the committee.

**Question 4:**

In relation to Appendix C – Pricing Structure Form, could PPS consider the following to avoid “gaming” the financial scoring?

- a. Bidders proposed resources and per diems must be in the order of their seniority. The proposed Project Manager/Leader rate in a particular resource category must be higher than the Senior Auditor rate and lower than the Partner rate in the same category.

- b. The proposed rate in any given category and level shall not increase or decrease by more than 5% year over year.

**Answer 4:**

a-There is no gaming here, as they will all go into a pool and can all reduce their rates at the time of a competition for a PO.

b- The Consumer Price Index that will determine how high rates can go in the option years.

**Question 5:**

In relation to R1 Project Summaries: Client name and contact information

We note that many of our past clients, due to the sensitive nature of the forensic and internal audit work performed, do not permit their identity to be disclosed to third parties in written submissions, which may be subject to Access to Information or otherwise shared. We request confirmation that the name and contact information for these clients can remain confidential, and if required we can provide these details verbally. This approach has been acceptable for other Federal Government Department/Agency RFPs.

**Answer 5:**

This is a legitimate concern by firms. We will let all firms provide the contact information verbally when it comes time to verify the references...we would like to know the name of the organization, so we can evaluate the extent to which the environment in which the work took place is similar to that of PPS, but contact name and information can be provided at a later date

**Question 6:**

February 21 is a statutory holiday for BC, AB, MB, SK, ON, NB, NS and PEI. Would PPS consider extending the due date for Work Stream 3. External Audit by one day so our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families?

**Answer 6:**

Unfortunately, the deadline can't be extended as we need a contract in place for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Question 7:**

Appendix D, page 44, Workstream 3. External Audit, AUDITOR experience (2<sup>nd</sup> bullet), "*minimum of two (3) cumulative years of experience*"

Please confirm the years of experience for the Auditor to be two (2) years. This will be consistent with the Auditor years of experience in Workstream 4: Financial Accounting Services.

**Answer 7:**

Please consider Appendix D, page 44, Workstream 3, External Audit, AUDITOR experience to be minimum of two (2) years of experience.