

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

- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) requires the services of a contractor, who is a qualified expert in isotope analyses, that can conduct analyses on a large number of existing feather samples of Red Knots banded on migration in the United States. This work will permit ECCC to assign wintering locations to individual birds based on stable isotope signatures. The results of these stable isotope analyses will facilitate future work by ECCC, to compare survival across different wintering grounds. Ultimately, the work will advance Red Knot recovery efforts by addressing key knowledge gaps around the influence of wintering grounds on migration habits, geographic range, and population structure.
- The work will involve the following:

The Contractor must conduct the following preparatory tasks and analyses on up to 3,500 feather samples from individual Red Knots:

1. Task 1. Preparation of feather samples for mass spectrometry analyses: weigh, wash, subsample, and encapsulation
2. Task 2. Stable Isotope Analysis – Nitrogen & Carbon
3. Task 3. Stable Isotope Analysis – Hydrogen
4. Task 4. Return shipping of unused samples for archival

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 contractor must possess the following minimum qualifications:

1. Minimum 5 years experience conducting isotope measurements in wildlife tissues including bird feathers (i.e. keratins).
2. Ability to employ ECCC calibration standards for all analyses.
3. Ability to prepare (weigh, wash, subsample) 3,500 samples for mass spectrometry analysis
4. Capacity to conduct the required analyses within the defined timeframe (by end of July 2022)
5. The contractor must operate in a facility in the United States, in order to comply with legislation governing the transport of Endangered Species in that country.

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-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*

7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The samples to be used for analysis were collected and are currently archived in the United States. The trans-border shipping of endangered species is tightly regulated through various permits and additional concerns about the trans-border spread of wildlife disease can require chemical treatment of samples that are incompatible with the required analyses. Cornell University's Stable Isotope Laboratory is the only known laboratory in the United States which meets the minimum qualifications, and has the capacity, and equipment to complete the Work and complete in the required timeframe..

8. Government Contracts Regulations Exception

The following exception(s) to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is (are) invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d) - only one person is capable of performing the work.

9. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

The following exclusion(s) and/or limited tendering reasons are invoked under the section of the trade agreement(s) specified:

- *Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)* – Article(s) 513 Limited Tender Procedures
- *Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA)* – Article Kbis-09 Tendering Procedures
- *Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement* – Article 1409 Limited Tendering
- *Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement* – Article 17.11 Limited Tendering
- *Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement* – Chapter Fourteen: Government Procurement
- *Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement* – Article 16.10 Limited Tendering

10. Ownership of Intellectual Property

- Canada intends to retain ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract on the basis that the main purpose of the contract is to generate knowledge and information for public dissemination.

11. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

- The services must be provided by July 29, 2022.

12. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract is \$114,603.82 (applicable taxes extra).

13. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Cornell University
Cornell Isotope Laboratory
E440 Corson Hall
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Tower Road
Ithaca, NY
14853
USA

14. 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.

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

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is March 22, 2022 at 2:00pm EDT.

16. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries are to be directed to:

Christina Granda
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Christina.Granda@ec.gc.ca

Statements of Capabilities are to be directed to:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
soumissionsbids@ec.gc.ca
Attn. Christina Granda