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Quebec

K1A 0S5

Bid Fax: (819) 997-9776

**SOLICITATION AMENDMENT
MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION**

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Victoria Class Modernization (VCM) / Modernisation
de la classe Victoria
Louis St-Laurent Building (2)
2nd Floor - SC19
455 De la Carrière Blvd
Gatineau
Quebec
K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet VCM Flank Array Project	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8472-195763/B	Amendment No. - N° modif. 001
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8472-195763	Date 2022-03-29
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$VCM-004-28607	
File No. - N° de dossier 004vcm.W8472-195763	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT on - le 2022-04-25 Heure Avancée de l'Est HAE	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Dawson, Kirby	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 004vcm
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (000) 000-0000 ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction:	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation
W8472-195763/B

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.
001

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur
004VCM

Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client
W8472-195763

File No. - N° du dossier
004VCM.W8472-195763/B

CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° E

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

FOR THE VICTORIA CLASS MODERNIZATION FLANK ARRAY PROJECT

This amendment is issued to provide an extension to the submission closing date.

At page 5 of 8 of the RFI, section 3.6, Directions to Respondents, Submission:

DELETE:

Respondents must send their responses directly to the PSPC Contracting Authority specified in section 3.8, by **1400 EDT, April 11th 2022**. The PSPC Contracting Authority will provide positive confirmation of receipt.

Supplemental information may be provided in an electronic format (MS-Office applications or PDF).

Responses to this RFI will not be returned.

INSERT:

Respondents must send their responses directly to the PSPC Contracting Authority specified in section 3.8, by **1400 EDT, April 25th 2022**. The PSPC Contracting Authority will provide positive confirmation of receipt.

Supplemental information may be provided in an electronic format (MS-Office applications or PDF).

Responses to this RFI will not be returned.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED AND IN FULL EFFECT.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

CAF: Canadian Armed Forces.

DND: Department of National Defence.

ISED: Innovation, Science, and Economic Development

ITB: Industrial and Technological Benefits Policy

PDF: Portable Document Format.

PSPC: Public Services and Procurement Canada.

RCN: Royal Canadian Navy.

RFI: Request for Information.

VCM: *Victoria*-class Modernization.

VCS: VICTORIA class Submarines.

Videoconferencing applications: a set of tools designed for personal and corporate collaboration. Videoconferencing applications are used to connect to others, typically through the internet, and they allow you to communicate through audio, video, text, filesharing, whiteboard, and other features. Commonly used applications include Microsoft Teams and Cisco WebEx.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) FOR THE PROVISION OF A FLANK ARRAY SYSTEM

1. Purpose of the Request for Information

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is releasing a second Request for Information (RFI) on behalf of the Department of National Defence (DND) and Innovation, Science, and Economic Development (ISED) in order to gather information for a future procurement related to the *Victoria*-class Modernization (VCM) Flank Array Project.

The purpose of this RFI (Release #2) is to:

- Consider the application of the Industrial and Technological Benefits Policy (ITB);
- Seek feedback with respect to economic benefits; and
- Obtain information about the optimal leveraging approach for this project.

Changes to this RFI may occur and will be advertised on the Government Electronic Tendering System. Canada asks Respondents to visit Buyandsell.gc.ca regularly to check for changes, if any.

Should industry wish to review the contents of the Release #1 RFI of the VCM Flank Array Project, this can be done by visiting: [RFI - Provision of a Flank Array System – Victoria-class Modernization \(VCM\) \(W8472-195763/A\) - Buyandsell.gc.ca](http://RFI - Provision of a Flank Array System – Victoria-class Modernization (VCM) (W8472-195763/A) - Buyandsell.gc.ca)

2. Background Information

The VCM projects will provide modernized and increased capability to maintain the VICTORIA class Submarines' (VCS') operational relevance through the mid-2030s. The VCM will be a collection of discrete projects (referred to as capability elements) that will be managed both individually and within the larger VCM to generate the necessary capability for Canada's submarines as detailed in *Strong, Secure, Engaged* - Canada's Defence Policy. Overall, the modernization outcomes will make Canada and its allies stronger and safer by:

- a. positioning the VCS to contribute meaningfully to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Joint Operations ashore;
- b. ensuring the survivability of the VCS against an evolving threat in an increasingly complex and changing battlespace; and
- c. improving the habitability and deployment conditions onboard the VCS in support of Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) submariners.

This RFI relates to the VCM Flank Array capability element.

The VCS are currently equipped with a late 1970s design 32 element Flank Array originally manufactured by Thompson Marconi Sonar Limited - now under Thales Group. The Flank Array allows the submarine to passively detect and track targets at long ranges.

The current Flank Array is comprised of two 16-hydrophone arrays, one on each of the port and starboard sides. Analog signals from each port and starboard array element are fed, via copper cabling, to port and starboard amplifier groups. The amplifier groups transmit the amplified signals to the VCS AN/BQQ-10 Sonar System.

The VCM wants better detection and performance from the new Flank Array.

3. Directions to Respondents

3.1 Nature of the RFI

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal. 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 as 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.

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.

Procurement of the goods or services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this request. Any procurements of this system/equipment/services will be in accordance with standard government procurement policies. Respondents and potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI should not earmark stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI.

Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing 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.

3.2 Format of the Requested Responses

Respondents are asked to send their responses directly to the PSPC Contracting Authority by email in MS Word, Excel or PDF format with a suggested limit of 6 megabytes per response. The PSPC Contracting Authority will provide positive confirmation of receipt. All enquiries and other communications related to this RFI must be directed exclusively to the PSPC Contracting Authority.

The respondents must identify all response data with the following information:

- a. name and address of the respondent;
- b. name, address, telephone number, and email address of the respondent's contact;
- c. submission date;
- d. RFI number; and
- e. version number of the submission.

Respondents must identify if their response, or any part of their response, is subject to the Controlled Goods Regulations and/or any export controls.

If respondents wish to provide multiple submissions or volumes/versions in response to this RFI, respondents are requested to indicate on the front cover page of the title of the response, the Buy and Sell identification number, the volume/version number, full legal name of the respondent and a point of contact of the respondent including name, telephone number and email address.

In addition to the questions being asked within this RFI, respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns and where applicable, alternative recommendations and or various options regarding how the requirements described in the RFI could be satisfied. Respondents should list and explain any assumptions that they make in their responses.

3.3 Response Costs

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

3.4 Treatment of Responses

3.4.1 Use of Responses

Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by Canada to develop or modify procurement strategies or project requirements.

3.4.2 Review Team

A review team composed of representatives from Canada will review the responses, yet they will not be formally evaluated. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resources or contractors that it considers necessary to review any response. Any consultants or contractors utilized will be subject to a Non-Disclosure Agreement. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. Canada may, in its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

3.4.3 Confidentiality

Respondents should clearly identify any information they provide Canada that they feel is proprietary, commercial-in-confidence, third party, or personal information. Please note that Canada may be obligated by law (e.g., in response to a request under the Access to Information and Privacy Acts) to disclose proprietary or commercially-sensitive information concerning a respondent (for more information:

<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>).

3.4.4 Post-Submission Review Meetings

Canada may request individual Post-Submission Review Meetings with respondents to provide clarity on information provided. This may take place in the form of follow on meetings, either in person or via Videoconferencing applications.

If required, the Post-Submission Review Meetings will be held at a location at Canada's discretion. For planning purposes, this may be held either on the East coast, West coast or the National Capital Region - location will be determined at a later date.

The intent of the Post-Submission Review Meetings will be to provide an opportunity for a discussion with respondents regarding the information submitted in response to this RFI.

Although respondents may request a Post-Submission Review Meeting, and their request will be considered, Canada will determine whether it requires additional information from any given respondent and will schedule meetings accordingly and all Post-Submission Review Meetings will be at the sole discretion of Canada. All such requests, by respondents, should be provided to the PSPC Contracting Authority.

Respondents will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred in participating in Post-Submission Review Meetings.

3.5 Contents of this Request for Information

The draft requirements contained in this RFI remain works-in-progress and respondents should assume that clauses and requirements may be added, modified and deleted in any bid solicitation that is ultimately published by Canada.

3.6 Submission

Respondents must send their responses directly to the PSPC Contracting Authority specified in section 3.8 by **1400 EDT, April 11th, 2022**. The PSPC Contracting Authority will provide positive confirmation of receipt.

Supplemental information may be provided in an electronic format (MS-Office applications or PDF).

Responses to this RFI will not be returned.

3.7 Enquiries

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada will not necessarily respond to enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential suppliers. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to the PSPC Contracting Authority. The use of email to communicate is preferred.

Canada may, in its discretion, contact any respondent for clarification on any aspect of the respondent's submission.

All enquiries must be submitted to the PSPC Contracting Authority no later than **seven (7)** calendar days before the RFI closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.

3.8 Contracting Authority

The PSPC Contracting Authority for the Contract is:

Name: Kirby Dawson
Title: Supply Team Leader
Public Works and Government Services Canada
Directorate: Marine Sustainment Directorate
Address: 455, Boulevard de la Carrière, Gatineau, QC, J8Y 6V7

E-mail address: Kirby.dawson@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

3.9 Security Requirements

There is no security requirement associated with this RFI.

3.10 Fairness Monitor:

Industry engagement activities associated with this project will utilize the services of a Fairness Monitor. A Fairness Monitor provides client departments, government suppliers, Parliament and Canadians with independent assurance that Public Services and Procurement Canada conducts its activities in a fair, open and transparent way.

4.0 Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy:

Canada is consulting with industry as part of the development of an economic leveraging approach for the Flank Array Modernization Project within the *Victoria*-class Modernization. The Policy Framework for the ITB Policy, including Value Proposition, may be applied.

The ITB Policy, including the Value Proposition, applies to all eligible defence procurements over \$100 million and for which the National Security Exception applies. Additionally, procurements valued between \$20-100 million are reviewed for the possible application of the Policy

Under the ITB Policy, companies awarded defence procurement contracts are required to undertake business activities in Canada equal to the value of the contract. The ITB Policy includes the Value Proposition (VP), which requires bidders to compete on the basis of the economic benefits to Canada associated with its bid. Winning bidders are selected on the basis of price, technical merit and their VP. VP commitments made by the winning bidder become contractual obligations in the ensuing contract.

The objectives of the ITB Policy are to: support the long-term sustainability and growth of Canada's defence sector; support the growth of prime contractors as well as suppliers in Canada, including small

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and medium-sized enterprises in all regions of the country; enhance innovation through research and technological development in Canada; and increase the export potential of Canadian-based firms.

For more information regarding the ITB Policy, please visit: <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/086.nsf/eng/home>

ANNEX A – VCM FLANK ARRAY ITB QUESTIONS

1. Based on the information contained in this RFI and the preceding RFI related to the VCM Flank Array project, what type of industrial opportunities currently exist to provide direct work in Canada as part of this requirement?
 - a. What portion of the total work do you foresee could be sourced in Canada both as regards labour and materials in relation to the total value? If possible, please provide a percentage and explanation of your answer.
 - b. Are there other potential industrial activities/efforts that you could recommend be undertaken to provide direct work in Canada for this requirement?
2. One of the ITB Policy's objectives is to encourage the participation of Canadian small and medium businesses on defence procurements. With this objective in mind, do you foresee any challenges if the ITB Policy, including Value Proposition, is applied to this project? Please explain.
 - a. Can you offer any recommendations on how to promote the participation of small and medium businesses on the VCM Flank Array project?
3. Are there elements related to the VCM Flank Array project that could not be completed in Canada? Please explain.
 - a. If there are elements of the Direct Work that cannot be completed in Canada, what areas of your business could support alternative investments in the marine and/or defence sector?
4. The requirements associated with VCM Flank Array were specified in the first RFI (link in Section 1) and they touch on a number of Canadian Key Industrial Capabilities (KICs), for example: Sonar and Acoustic Systems, and Marine Ship Born and Platform Systems. Are there other KICs that you foresee aligning with this requirement?
5. In addition to direct work on the project, do you foresee an opportunity to promote the Canadian marine/submarine industry through Skills Development and Training or Research and Development (R&D) opportunities and programs?
 - a. What skills and trades in particular do you consider most important for the future of the marine and/or submarine-related technology in Canada?
 - b. Recognizing the role that post-secondary institutions play in R&D and fostering innovation in Canada, to what extent do you think these investments support the future needs of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian marine industry, submarine-related technology, and/or KIC areas? Please explain.
 - c. Are there any Canadian opportunities through the Flank Array and its associated technologies which could help support international exports?
6. Do you have any experience on government procurements involving Industrial and Regional Benefits / Industrial and Technological Benefits?
 - a. Do you foresee any challenges should this Policy be applied? (Please visit the ITB policy [website](#) for additional information).