

Questions and Answer #3

RFP 202205250

1. Please confirm that “Phase 2” is the creation of a Canadian USAR standard?

Phase 2 of the contract will require the consultant to update the current Canadian USAR Classification Guide in alignment with the methodology prescribed by the INSARAG Guidelines 2020. This construct is not measurable/enforceable as a standard, however, it may comprise other standards (e.g. NFPA, FEMA, etc.) which articulate the expectations for teams to achieve Light, Medium, and Heavy classifications.

2. Please confirm that the expectation for “Phase 3” is the presentation of options for team accreditation to that new standard?

Phase 3 of the contract will require the consultant to prepare options for a team accreditation process to certify the compliance of Task Forces with the USAR Classification Guide *and* other operational prerequisites described by the IRNAP Manual(s) published by INSARAG. This process may include the establishment of a national accreditation body and/or curriculum, and consultation with technical experts across the INSARAG network.

3. Does a current USAR advisory committee exist within PS?

The USAR Advisory Committee is a working group of SOREM (Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency Management) comprised of the Task Forces, provinces/territories, and federal members. The Advisory Committee established a Sub-Working Group for HUSAR charged with the responsibility of developing a national concept of operations for HUSAR as well as certification of the Task Forces for domestic operations (i.e. IRNAP).

4. Does the current USAR system leverage an external agency (third party) for quality control and continuous improvement?

No. However, the intent is to align with INSARAG in which Canada is a member.

5. Mandatory technical criteria #1 demands that the bidder be a standards development organization that is accredited by the Standards Council of Canada. The RFP is looking to secure a Principal Investigator with significant expertise in the USAR community and further demands that the Canadian USAR Standards and Classification Guide only need to be updated and not created from a zero start state. Will Canada therefore consider dropping M1 from being a mandatory technical criteria?

No. While the classification guide is not from a zero start state, it is of PS's opinion that the accreditation process being sought will need this criteria.

6. Section 7 Location of Work - will Canada support remote work (not in the National Capital Region) with the inclusion of teleconference options for project/TA meetings? If there is an intent to have face to face meetings in Ottawa without an option for remote, what are the frequency of face to face meetings?

Yes, remote work is acceptable and for the most part will be preferred.

7. Section 7 Travel outside of the NCR. In order to engage with national USAR stakeholders who are not located in Ottawa, will Canada support travel to these areas or is the expectation that the PI only conducts engagements remotely?

While the majority of engagement can be conducted remotely, travel for 1-2 in-person workshops and/or meetings with national USAR stakeholders (arranged by PS) may be permitted. Please see Amendment #2 – there is an allocation of \$7,500 for travel as required.

END