



INVITATION TO QUALIFY (ITQ)

Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle
(CSPV)



Shared Services
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SHARED SERVICES CANADA

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

Invitation to Qualify No.	BPM 006672	Issuing Date	April 29, 2022
GCDocs File No.	N/A	GETS Reference No.	PW-22-00993846

ISSUING OFFICE	Shared Services Canada 180 Kent Street, 13 th Floor Ottawa, ON K1P 0B5		
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ITQ CLOSING DATE AND TIME	May 13, 2022 at 14:00 HRS		
TIME ZONE	Eastern Time (EST)		
DESTINATION OF GOODS/SERVICES	Not Applicable – Pre-Qualification Process Only		
EMAIL ADDRESS FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PRELIMINARY RESPONSE BY THE CLOSING DATE	Via the Procure-2-Pay (P2P) Portal		

Table of Contents

1. GENERAL INFORMATION	5
1.1 Definitions.....	5
1.2 Introduction	5
1.3 Non-Disclosure of Information	7
1.4 Overview of the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle	7
1.5 Overview of Anticipated CSPV	9
2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS.....	11
2.1 Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions	11
2.2 SSC’s Procure-to-Pay Portal	11
2.3 Questions and Comments.....	11
2.4 Submission of Only One Response.....	12
2.5 Security Clearance Requirement.	12
3. PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A RESPONSE.....	14
3.1 General Instructions.....	14
3.2 Content of Response.....	14
3.3 Submission of Response	15
4. Process for Evaluating Responses.....	16
4.1 Evaluation of Respondent Qualifications.....	16
4.2 ITQ Phase 1 – Evaluation Requirements.....	16
4.3 ITQ Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation.....	17
4.4 Basis of Qualification.....	18

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

Annexes

Annex A	Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements
Annex B	Phase 2 Rated Criteria Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 to Annex B - Self-Identification of Underrepresented Socio-Economic Businesses
Annex C	Security Requirements Checklist (SRCL)
Annex D	Definitions
Annex E	Rules of Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 to Annex E – Acknowledgement and Agreement Form• Appendix 2 to Annex E – Secure Supplier Ecosystem (SSE) Performance Dashboard

Attachments

Attachment 2.1 to Part 2: SSC Standard Instructions

Forms

Form 1: Phase 1 Response Submission Form

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Definitions

- a) "Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle" or "CSPV" means the procurement process described in sections 1.3 and 1.4 below;
- b) "ITQ" means Phases 1 and 2 of the CSPV as further detailed in section 1.4(a) below;
- c) "Preliminary Response" means the Response Submission Form, Annex A – Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements and Appendix 1 to Annex E;
- d) "Qualified Respondent or QR" means a Respondent that has been confirmed by Canada to have met the evaluation criteria, qualifications and conditions of the ITQ, has agreed to and signed Annex E – Rules of Engagement, and has been so notified by Canada. For greater clarity, in the case of a joint venture, where more than one Respondent is identified in the Response Submission Form, the Respondents will collectively be considered the Qualified Respondent.;
- e) "Respondent" means the person or entity (or in the case of a joint venture, the persons or entities) that has submitted a response to this ITQ and is identified in the Response Submission Form;
- f) "Response" means the Preliminary Response and the Phase 2 Presentation.

1.2 Introduction

- a) **Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV):** This Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) is the first two phases of the CSPV. It continues the agile procurement process started by Shared Services Canada (SSC) on behalf of the Government of Canada in 2019. Suppliers are invited to pre-qualify in accordance with the terms and conditions of this ITQ, described in Phases 1 and 2, in order to become "Qualified Respondents or QRs" for any later phases of the CSPV, including Phases 3 and 4. Only Qualified Respondents will be permitted to bid on any subsequent solicitations issued under the CSPV.
- b) **Further Evaluation of Qualified Respondents:** Even though certain suppliers may be pre-qualified by Canada as a result of this ITQ, Canada reserves the right to re-evaluate any aspect of the qualification of any Qualified Respondent at any time during the procurement process.
- c) **ITQ is not a Bid Solicitation:** This ITQ is not a solicitation of bids or tenders. The issuance of this ITQ is not to be considered in any way a commitment by Canada or as authorization to potential suppliers to undertake any work, which could be charged to Canada. This ITQ is not to be considered as a commitment to issue future solicitations related to the CSPV procurement process or award any contract(s).
- d) Canada reserves the right to amend or cancel any phase of this ITQ or any subsequent phases of the CSPV at any time during the CSPV. Given that the ITQ may be partially or completely cancelled by Canada, it may not result in any of the subsequent solicitations described in this document. Respondents and Qualified Respondents may withdraw from

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

the procurement process at any time. Therefore, Qualified Respondents can choose to not bid on any subsequent solicitations

- e) This ITQ will prequalify and evaluate respondents based on the requirements in the Response Submission Form and Annex A; these requirements will be further refined and evaluated during subsequent phases of the CSPV.
- f) **ITQ Ongoing Qualification Process:**
 - i. The ITQ closing date and time for Phase 1 is included on the front page of the ITQ and is detailed in the P2P portal. After the initial posting of the ITQ, it is Canada's intention to have the ITQ closing date move in two (2) week intervals for the first two submission closing dates, and then in six (6) month intervals. After that, Canada will determine the best ITQ submission interval based on the number of Qualified Respondents. Based on this, the various ITQ closing dates are as follows:
 - (A) Subsequent ITQ Submission closing date → **May 27, 2022 at 2:00 PM EST**
 - (B) Subsequent ITQ Submission closing date → **November 28, 2022 at 2:00 PM EST**
 - (C) Subsequent ITQ Submission closing date → **May 26, 2023 at 2:00 PM EST**
 - ii. Should Canada deem it advantageous, Canada reserves the right to qualify additional suppliers to expand its list of Qualified Respondents. If Canada decides to qualify additional suppliers, Canada will issue a solicitation that resembles the CSPV ITQ No. BPM006672 through an open competition posted on a Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS). For example, if Canada has a new requirement for security functions for Cyber Security solutions or products that were not identified in Annex A of this ITQ, Canada reserves the right to revise the CSPV ITQ No. BPM006672 in accordance with the ongoing qualification process.
 - iii. Any interested suppliers must use the latest version of the ITQ package, which is available through GETS, in preparing their Responses. Canada will evaluate Preliminary Responses received for Phase 1 of the ITQ as departmental operational priorities permit. Canada will not commit to evaluate Preliminary Responses received for Phase 1 of this ITQ within any particular time period. Canada reserves the right to evaluate Preliminary Responses concurrently or chronologically as received by Canada. That is, Canada may evaluate Responses, or parts thereof, in parallel without regard as to when a Response was received or Canada may fully complete its evaluation of a Response before moving onto evaluating the next Responses received.
 - iv. Canada reserves the right to amend the Security Requirements or Security Requirements levels at any time during the ITQ or any point in which the CSPV is active. Qualified Respondents will not be exempt from meeting all security requirements on an ongoing basis, and may be required to submit additional information and be subjected to additional security evaluation. Previous Qualified Respondents who do not meet the then current Security Requirements may lose their status as a Qualified Respondent.
- g) **Potential Client Users:** This ITQ is being issued by Shared Services Canada (SSC). It is intended that any procurement vehicle or contract(s) resulting from any subsequent

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

solicitation will be used by SSC to provide shared services to one or more of its clients. SSC's clients include SSC itself, those government institutions for whom SSC's services are mandatory at any point during the life of any resulting vehicle or contract(s), and those other organizations for whom SSC's services are optional at any point during the life of any resulting procurement vehicle or contract(s) and that choose to use those services from time to time. This process will not preclude SSC from using another method of supply for itself or any of its clients with the same or similar needs, unless a subsequent solicitation for this CSPV expressly indicates otherwise.

1.3 Non-Disclosure of Information

As described further in Annex E of this ITQ, information concerning Canada's existing and future cyber infrastructure includes sensitive information that must only be shared on a need-to-know basis. In order to protect this information, SSC has determined that it is contrary to the public interest to use GETs for all solicitations following this ITQ. SSC therefore reverses the right to share all information with QRs in keeping with Government of Canada's Security of Information standards and using methods that are not contemplated by the trade agreements.

1.4 Overview of the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle

- a) **Overview of the CSPV:** The Networks, Security and Digital Services (NSDS) branch has identified the need for a Cyber Security specific procurement process in order to more efficiently implement Treasury Board (TB) approved Cyber Security projects and respond rapidly to unforeseen Cyber Threats. These projects will help to create an all-inclusive, fully integrated, Government of Canada (GC) enterprise security infrastructure that will provide protection, visibility and threat response to cyberattacks. The objective of this procurement process is to develop a strategic sourcing methodology which will enable Enterprise IT Procurement (**EITP**) to rapidly procure technology, integration services and solutions from a list of Qualified Respondents (QRs) in order to effectively serve the NSDS branch in the execution of their mandate.
- b) One of the key goals of the CSPV is to create a Secure Supplier Ecosystem (SSE) and a collaborative environment between government and industry in order to provide the ability to quickly respond to emerging Cyber Threats, facilitate dialogue on Canada's requirements in order to improve interoperability and integration of technologies, increase access and agility, and streamline the procurement of Cyber Security requirements.
- c) The proposed CSPV is planned to encompass the following characteristics:
 - i. Establish a list of Qualified Respondents with whom SSC will engage inside that SSE;

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

- ii. Permit the strategic alignment to NSDS' reference architecture and technical roadmap by continuous adjustment of technology and solutions as well as creation of a common iconography and nomenclature;
- iii. Add flexibility and agility into procurement methodologies to improve time to market with procurement;
- iv. Create an agile process within the established CSPV whereby solicitations could require "Proof of Proposals" (PoP), or "Proof of Concepts" (PoC), and lab integration for innovative technology investigations to address emerging, time-sensitive threats;
- v. Ensure that solution integrators and technology vendors who demonstrate that they are on the "bleeding edge" of technology innovation are included in the CSPV; and
- vi. Address socio-economic benefits by leveraging small business, other underrepresented socio-economic business, and, when and where possible, applying SSC's requirement for regional and Aboriginal benefits.

d) **Strategic Outcomes:** The CSPV ITQ is in support of the following strategic outcomes:

- i. **Secure Supplier Ecosystem (SSE):** The establishment of a list of Qualified Respondents will identify specific Qualified Respondents (QRs) whom NSDS will engage with throughout the CSPV. This will create a Secure Supplier Ecosystem (SSE), within which, SSC may share sensitive architecture, plans, service gaps, and roadmaps, as well as discuss and develop requirements to address the evolution of SSC security systems and services.
- ii. **Efficiency:** The CSPV will allow SSC to respond more quickly to the evolving Cyber Threat landscape by engaging QRs within the SSE. This vehicle may be leveraged by all NSDS projects/initiatives to issue multiple solicitations and subsequent contracts under its umbrella, ultimately saving each project time and effort. Leveraging the SSE for multiple procurements will allow for improved interoperability and integration of technologies.
- iii. **Innovation:** The CSPV will include suppliers that demonstrate innovative ideas, technologies, and solutions. The vehicle will leverage outcome based procurements to avoid overly restrictive requirements, thereby encouraging innovative solutions.
- iv. **Inclusion:** The CSPV encourages the development of underrepresented socio-economic businesses in the Cyber Security field, and promotes a more diverse and inclusive approach to developing Cyber Security solutions through the implementation of socio-economic strategies. A more diverse ecosystem will facilitate creativity and innovation in responding to Cyber Threats.

e) **Applicable Trade Agreements:** The Canada Free Trade Agreement is applicable to this procurement process. Any other applicable trade agreements will be dependent on specific Phase 3 and Phase 4 procurements. They may include, but are not limited to the following:

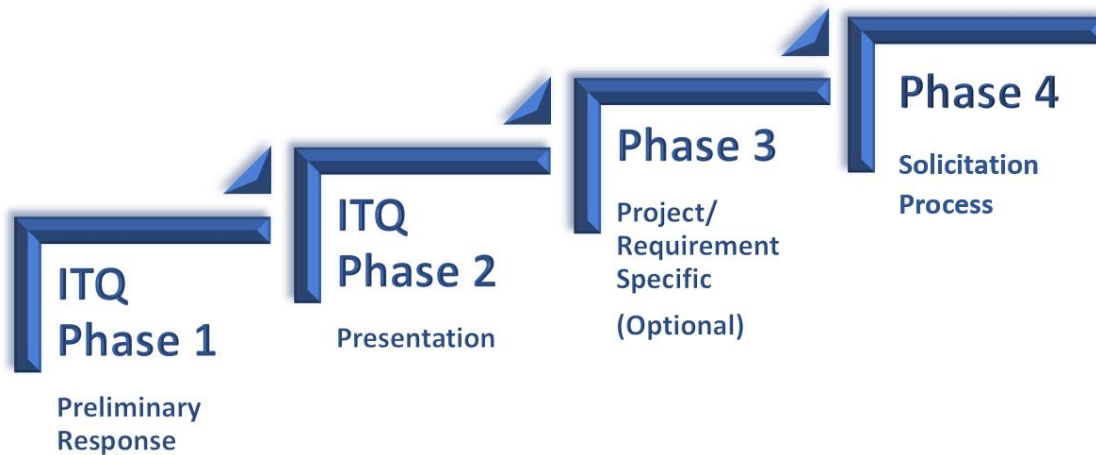
Trade Agreements
<i>Canada Free Trade Agreement</i>

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

<i>Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement</i>
<i>Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement</i>
<i>Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)*</i>
<i>Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)</i>

- f) **Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements:** This project will consider procurement obligations that exist in the Comprehensive Land Claim Agreements across Canada. A Small portion of this requirement may be delivered in areas subject to a Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement (CLCA).

1.5 Overview of Anticipated CSPV



Although the procurement process remains subject to change (and even to cancellation, in accordance with SSC's Standard Instructions), Canada currently intends to conduct this procurement process in the following phases:

- a) **Invitation to Qualify (ITQ)**

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

- i. **Phase 1 – Preliminary Response (See Response Submission Form 1):** This Phase of the ITQ will allow Respondents to demonstrate how they meet the mandatory requirements outlined in **Annex A – Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements**. SSC will consider each Respondent's Phase 1 submission as a **Preliminary Response**. During Phase 1, Canada will not make any final determination of compliance, but may identify Deficiencies to Respondents. Respondents may be given an opportunity address the Deficiencies in accordance with Section 4.2 of this ITQ, and substantiate compliancy during Phase 2, which is set out in Section 4.3 Respondents are also required to complete Appendix 1 to Annex E – Rules of Engagement and submit it with the Preliminary Response.
 - ii. **Phase 2 – Presentation:** This Phase of the ITQ will allow Respondents to present virtually to a panel of evaluators. The presentation must substantiate compliance with any deficiencies identified in the Respondent's Preliminary Response, and **Annex B – Phase 2 Rated Criteria Presentation**. A minimum score must be achieved in order to pass Phase 2, which is set out in section 4.3 (d).
- b) **Phase 3 – Project or Requirement Specific Phase (Optional):** Canada may use the optional Phase 3 to evaluate QRs' capabilities related to specific projects or requirements, QRs may be required to demonstrate one or more specific capabilities, in a single or over multiple demonstrations. Canada may use traditional or innovative mechanisms in its evaluation.
- c) **Phase 4 – Solicitation Process:** For requirements to be procured using the CSPV, a Phase 4 solicitation process may proceed in one of the following ways:
- i. If Canada ran Phase 3 for a project requirement, Canada will solicit only the QRs who were evaluated in Phase 3 for that project or requirement within the SSE to respond to the Phase 4 solicitation process;
 - ii. Where no Phase 3 occurred, Canada will solicit QRs within the SSE to respond to a Phase 4 solicitation process; or
 - iii. Canada may limit competition or direct business in accordance with Section 8 of the Rules of Engagement.
- d) **Contract Award:** QRs who successfully comply with the requirements of the bid solicitation at Phase 4 may be recommended for contract award. SSC may award more than one contract to more than one QR, as required.
- e) **Supplier Performance:** SSC considers that the ultimate value realized from a procurement contract or process can be enhanced by exceptional performance, or alternatively, undermined by poor performance. Respondents acknowledge that SSC may track the performance of its suppliers and that this information may be considered by SSC in decisions about suppliers best suited to perform other work in the future. SSC confirms that, in any competitive or directed procurement process, the way in which past performance may be used in the evaluation will be described in the solicitation.

2. INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDENTS

2.1 Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions

- a) SSC's Standard Instructions for Procurement Documents No. 1.4 ("SSC's Standard Instructions") are incorporated by reference into and form part of the ITQ as though they were expressly set out here in full. If there is a conflict between provisions of SSC's Standard Instructions and this document, this document prevails.
- b) Section 1 only of PSPC's Standard Instructions (2020-05-28) applies to this ITQ.
- c) All other instructions, clauses and conditions identified in this document or any of its attachments by number, date and title are set out in the Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions Manual (<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual>) issued by Public Services and Procurement Canada. These instructions, clauses and conditions are incorporated by reference and they form part of this document as though they were expressly set out here in full. If there is a conflict between the provisions of this document and any documents that are incorporated into it by reference as set out above, this document prevails.
- d) With respect to SSC's Standard Instructions:
 - i. There will not be a site visit; and
 - ii. There will not be a conference for interested suppliers.
- e) By submitting a Response, the Respondent is confirming that it agrees to be bound by all the instructions, clauses and conditions of this ITQ.

2.2 SSC's Procure-to-Pay Portal

- a) In 2016, SSC adopted a new system called Procure-to-Pay (P2P) to electronically manage the procurement to payment processes. P2P integrates accounts payable and procurement processes, allows for automated work routing and email notifications, provides end-to-end electronic approvals and enables SSC to move towards paperless processing.
- b) SSC's suppliers will be required to interface with the SSC P2P portal for this ITQ and for their participation in the SSE for subsequent solicitations.

2.3 Questions and Comments

- a) Questions and comments applicable to this ITQ can be submitted in accordance with the section of SSC's Standard Instructions entitled "Communications". However, instead of the deadline specified in those Standard Instructions:
 - i. Questions can be submitted at any time to the Contracting Authority using the P2P portal and may be answered as soon as possible.
- b) Suppliers should reference as accurately as possible the section and numbered item of the ITQ to which the entity relates. Care should be taken by suppliers to explain

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

each question in sufficient detail in order to enable Canada to provide an accurate answer.

- c) Technical enquiries that are of a “proprietary” nature must be clearly marked “proprietary” at each relevant item. Items identified as proprietary will be treated as such except where Canada determines that the enquiry is not of a proprietary nature. Canada may edit the questions or request that the supplier do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question is eliminated, and the enquiry can be answered and then published to all suppliers. Enquiries not submitted in a manner that can be published to all suppliers may not be answered by Canada.

2.4 Submission of Only One Response

- a) A Respondent can be an individual, a sole proprietorship, a corporation or a joint venture.
- b) A Respondent (including related entities as defined in subsection (c) below, will be permitted to qualify only once.
- c) For the purpose of this Article, regardless of the jurisdiction where any of the entities concerned are incorporated or otherwise formed as a matter of law (whether that entity is an individual, corporation, etc.) an entity will be considered to be “related” to a Respondent if:
 - i. They are the same legal entity as the Respondent (i.e., the same natural person, corporation, etc.);
 - ii. The entity and the Respondent are “related persons” or “affiliated persons” according to the *Canada Income Tax Act*;
 - iii. The entity and the Respondent have now, or in the two years prior to the ITQ closing date had a fiduciary relationship with one another (either as a result of an agency arrangement or any other form of fiduciary relationship); or
 - iv. The entity and the Respondent otherwise do not deal with one another at arm’s length, or each of them does not deal at arms length with the same third party.
- d) By submitting a Response, the Respondent is certifying that it does not consider itself to be related to any other Respondent.

2.5 Security Clearance Requirement.

There is no security clearance requirement for the ITQ. There may, however, be a security clearance requirement for phase 3 and there will be a security clearance requirement for Phase 4.

A preliminary version of the Security Requirements Checklist (SRCL) has been included as Annex C to this ITQ. Security requirements are subject to change on a requirement by requirement basis and are provided for information purposes.

The majority of the initial project requirements being procured using the CSPV will require Qualified Respondents to have a Secret security clearance. Canada recommends that Respondents start the Organization and Personnel Security Screening process at their

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

earliest convenience. Details can be found at: <https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/enquete-screening-eng.html>. **Please contact the Contracting Authority who will sponsor any Organization and Personnel Security Screening requests.**

3. PREPARING AND SUBMITTING A RESPONSE

3.1 General Instructions

SSC's Standard Instructions include instructions with respect to Responses, which apply in addition to those described in this document.

3.2 Content of Response

A complete Response to this ITQ consists of all of the following:

a) **Response Submission Form (Form 1) (Mandatory at Phase 1):**

Respondents must complete and submit with their Preliminary Response to this ITQ the Response Submission Form. It provides a common form in which Respondents will provide information required for evaluation, such as: a contact name, the Respondent's Procurement Business Number (PBN), the language for future communications with Canada about this procurement process, Cyber Security areas of expertise, integrity check, etc., as well as responses to the mandatory requirements of Annex A – Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements.

b) Any attachments that are required to demonstrate your compliance in accordance with Annex A – Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements.

c) Upon request, the Respondent must also provide further information required by the Contracting Authority pursuant to Section 1 of PSPC's Standard Instructions (2020-05-28)

d) **Certifications**

i. By Submitting a response, the Respondent is automatically providing the following certifications set out in SSC's Standard Instructions in the section entitled "Deemed Certifications from Each Bidder":

Equipment and Software is "Off-the-Shelf"	Not applicable
System is "Off-the-Shelf"	Not applicable
Bidder's Proposed Resources will be available	Not applicable
Bidder has Verified Information about its Proposed Resources	Not applicable
Resources who are not Employees of the Bidder	Not applicable

ii. The Respondent is also required to provide the following certifications described in SSC's Standard Instructions. These certifications are requested with the Preliminary Response at the ITQ closing date. If these certificates are not included with the Preliminary Response, the Respondent must submit

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

them upon request by the Contracting Authority during the evaluation period if Canada determines that any certification is missing, incomplete or requires correction.

Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity Certification	Required – please provide the information in the Response Submission Form
Former Public Servants Certification	Required – please provide the information in the Response Submission Form

3.3 Submission of Preliminary Response

- a) Preliminary Responses must be submitted using the SSC P2P portal.
- b) In order to submit a Preliminary Response, Respondents must ensure that they are registered as suppliers in the P2P portal :
 - i. **For suppliers already registered in the P2P portal**, in order to be added to the solicitation in P2P, follow these steps:
 - (A) Log on to the P2P portal as a supplier admin;
 - (B) Click on the “Public RFx” tab located on the menu bar → view public RFx;
 - (C) Locate the Public RFx you would like to be added to;
 - (D) Click on the pencil icon located to the right in order to access the public RFx;
 - (E) Click on the “manage response team” tab;
 - (F) In the “Choose a Contact” field, select the user to be added. The user will be visible in this section when they are added;
 - (G) In the “manage local right on the sourcing process” section, lookup the user by clicking inside the field. The user will be visible in this section when they are added;
 - (H) The profile for the user should be “Sourcing Process – Owner (external).” This is the only profile that allows a Respondent to submit bids; and
 - (I) Click “Save”;

OR

- ii. **For suppliers not already registered in the P2P portal**, request to be added to the solicitation in the P2P portal by executing the following steps:

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

- (A) Send an email to the Contracting Authority identified on the front page of the ITQ indicating that the Respondent intends to submit a Preliminary Response using the P2P portal; and
- (B) Begin the registration process for a supplier account in P2P by following this link: [Supplier registration: SSC P2P SPC \(ssc-spc.gc.ca\)](https://ssc-spc.gc.ca)
- c) If the P2P portal is unavailable for any reason during any part of the 4 hours immediately before the ITQ closing date and time, Respondents are requested to contact the Contracting authority immediately, both by email and telephone. If the Contracting Authority confirms that the P2P portal is unavailable for any reason within the 4 hours before the closing date and time, the Contracting Authority will extend the ITQ closing date and time by 24 hours. The Contracting Authority will send notice of any such extension to those Respondents who have sent an email notification to the Contracting Authority indicating their intention to submit a Preliminary Response. The Contracting Authority is not required to extend the ITQ closing date or time if the reason a Respondent is unable to access the P2P portal is related to that Respondent or its systems, rather than an SSC system problem.
- d) Preliminary Responses can be modified, withdrawn or resubmitted at any point prior to the solicitation closing date and time.

4. Process for Evaluating Responses

4.1 Evaluation of Respondent Qualifications

- a) Canada will evaluate whether each Preliminary Response satisfies all of the mandatory requirements described in this ITQ (including information that this ITQ indicates is required, but the ITQ specifically states that it may be submitted upon request after the ITQ closing date). The provisions of SSC's Standard Instructions that relate to evaluation also apply. A Response must comply with all of the requirements of the ITQ in order to be declared compliant.
- b) On Form 1, Respondents should identify the top 10 technical components that their company specializes in. Canada reserves the right to use these categories to determine the order in which Canada will evaluate Preliminary Responses in Phase 1 and schedule presentations for Phase 2.

4.2 ITQ Phase 1 – Evaluation Requirements

- a) Each Preliminary Response will be reviewed to determine whether it meets the evaluation requirements set out in Annex A.
- b) Canada will evaluate the Preliminary Response and, before declaring a Preliminary Response non-compliant, may send a notice to the Respondent (the "Preliminary Evaluation Notice" or "PEN") identifying those requirements for which Canada has determined the Preliminary Response does not meet the requirement, whether due to an error, an omission or a deficiency of any other kind (collectively, the "the Deficiency"). All Preliminary Evaluation Notices (PENs) will be transmitted to Respondents in the P2P portal to the authorized representative of the Respondent for evaluation purposes identified in the Response Submission Form, and the PEN will be deemed to have been received by the Respondent at the time it was sent by Canada. Canada may send out one or more PENs to a Respondent. PENs may be

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

sent out at different times to different Respondents over the course of the Phase 1 evaluation.

- c) Notwithstanding subsection b) above, Canada may declare a Preliminary Response non-compliant and forego the PEN process, if the Preliminary Response has excessive deficiencies, lacks sufficient content and is overall deemed inadequate as a response to any of the mandatory requirements.
- d) The Respondent may submit revisions or additional materials (collectively, a "Revision") with respect to the specific requirement(s) identified in the PEN, and any other elements of the bid that are directly affected by the revision of the Preliminary Response for that requirement (the "Scope" for a potential Revision). For Evaluation purposes, Canada will not consider any additional information that is beyond the scope of the PEN for any Revision. In accordance with section 4.3 below, for Canada to consider a Revision, Canada must receive it on the date and time that the Respondent is Scheduled for Phase 2.
- e) Canada will only send one PEN per Deficiency related to a mandatory requirement. As a result, if the Revision does not, in Canada's opinion, remedy the Deficiency, the Respondent will be evaluated accordingly with respect to that requirement.
- f) Notwithstanding subsection b), d) and e) above, Respondents are solely responsible for submitting compliant Preliminary Responses. Each Respondent is solely responsible for ensuring that its revision to its Preliminary Response delivered to Canada at Phase 2 is compliant. Canada does not guarantee that it will identify every Deficiency during its evaluation in Phase 1. By submitting a Preliminary Response, the Respondent is agreeing that Canada will not be responsible in any way for failing to identify any Deficiency in Phase 1. Respondents evaluated and declared non-compliant in Phase 1 will not be invited to participate in Phase 2 of the ITQ process and will be required to wait a minimum of 6 months before submitting a Response to any subsequent ITQ processes.

4.3 ITQ Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation

- a) Successful Respondents from Phase 1 will move on to Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation. Presentations will be held virtually and will be conducted as follows:
 - i. If a Preliminary Evaluation Notice (PEN) was sent to the Respondent, the Respondent must present their Revision addressing each and every Deficiency identified by Canada as part of the PEN. If the Revision does not, in Canada's opinion, remedy the Deficiency, the Respondent will be evaluated accordingly with respect to that requirement. Respondents declared non-compliant will not be eligible to participate further in the ITQ.
 - ii. Respondents must present their Response to the rated requirements described in Annex B. All rated criteria presented by the Respondent during this phase will be assessed by assigning a score to the rated requirements.
 - iii. Respondents will have the opportunity to present a description of their additional capabilities that may be of interest to Canada. This part of the presentation is optional and will not be evaluated; however the information will be recorded and may be used by Canada for future purposes.

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

- b) Each Respondent will be given a maximum of 40 minutes to present. The Respondent must ensure the requirements expressed in Subsection a) above are met, and within the allotted time.
- c) An evaluation team composed of representatives of Canada will evaluate the presentations on behalf of Canada. It is Canada's intent to provide a team of up to 5 evaluators. Only persons employed by the Government of Canada will evaluate Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentations. Members of various Government of Canada departments and Agencies (e.g., Shared Services Canada, Communications Security Establishment, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces) will be included in the evaluation team. The same evaluation team may not necessarily participate in the evaluation of all Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentations.
- d) Each Respondent's Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation will be evaluated in accordance with the following:
 - i. Each evaluator will assess R1-R4 in accordance with Annex B – Phase 2 Rated Criteria Presentation, for a maximum total score of 20 points per evaluator.
 - ii. The total scores of all evaluators will be used to calculate an average score.
 - iii. A minimum average score of 10 points is required to pass the Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation.
- e) As early as 2 working days after receiving their PEN(s) from Canada, Respondents will be required to present their Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation inclusive of any PENs received.
- f) Canada will provide a date and time to the Respondent for their Phase 2 – Rated Criteria presentation. If the Respondent is unavailable for that time, Canada may accommodate a single proposed reschedule. If a Reschedule cannot be accommodated with the Respondent, Canada will attempt to schedule the Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation at its earliest convenience.
- g) The Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentations will be done virtually.
- h) Individual(s) delivering the Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation must be full-time employees of the Respondent.
- i) A maximum of three (3) presenters from the Respondent may attend Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation.
- j) Respondents evaluated and declared non-compliant in Phase 2 will not be invited to participate in any remaining phases of the ITQ process and will be required to wait a minimum of 6 months before submitting a Response to any subsequent ITQ processes.

4.4 Basis of Qualification

- a) Canada will not rank Respondents based on the points received in the Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation.
- b) To be declared a Qualified Respondent, a Respondent must:

Invitation to Qualify for the Cyber Security Procurement Vehicle (CSPV)

- i. Comply with all the requirements of the ITQ;
- ii. Meet all mandatory requirements outlined in Annex A – Phase 1 Evaluation Requirements;
- iii. Obtain a minimum average score of 10 points on their Phase 2 – Rated Criteria Presentation; and
- iv. Complete Appendix 1 to Annex E – Rules of Engagement for the Secure Supplier Ecosystem.