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Quebec

K1A 0S5

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## 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

Detection, Simulation and Optical Systems Division

Place du Portage III, 8C2

11 rue Laurier Street

Gatineau

Quebec

K1A 0S5

<b>Title - Sujet</b> JTAC VTS & In-Service Support Joint Terminal Attack Controller Virtual Training System (JTAC VTS)	
<b>Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation</b> W8486-228446/A	<b>Amendment No. - N° modif.</b> 005
<b>Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client</b> W8486-228446	<b>Date</b> 2022-05-13
<b>GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG</b> PW-\$\$QT-017-28635	
<b>File No. - N° de dossier</b> 017qt.W8486-228446	<b>CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME</b>
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin</b> <b>at - à 02:00 PM</b> Eastern Daylight Saving Time EDT <b>on - le 2022-06-08</b> Heure Avancée de l'Est HAE	
<b>F.O.B. - F.A.B.</b> <b>Plant-Usine:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Destination:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other-Autre:</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à:</b> Edwards-Letellier, Sophia	<b>Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur</b> 017qt
<b>Telephone No. - N° de téléphone</b> (343) 543-7073 ( )	<b>FAX No. - N° de FAX</b> ( ) -
<b>Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction:</b> <b>Destination - des biens, services et construction:</b>	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

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

Request for Proposal (RFP) Amendment 005 is issued to respond to questions received during the Solicitation period.

1. Amendment 001 was issued to update RFP Volume 1 and Volume 2 Resulting Contract clause JTAC VTS – ISS R&O.
2. Amendment 002 was issued to clarify that there is no solicitation labelled attachment 007 and update attachments 002 and 009.
3. The first set of questions 1 to 13 were answered via RFP amendment 003.
4. The second set of questions 14 to 20 were answered via RFP amendment 004.

**Question 21:**

**Reference:**

- a) **ISSMT5:** Attachment 1 indicates Attachment 2 reference is para. 5.4.1. While the TOC indicates that para. no., the text para. no. is 5.3.1.
- b) **ISSMT6:** Attachment 1 indicates Attachment 2 reference is para. 3.4.5, While the TOC indicates that para. no., the text para. no. is 3.3.5.
- c) **ISSMT7:** Attachment 1 indicates Attachment 2 reference is para. 4.1.8, While the TOC indicates that para. no., the text para. no. is 4.0.8.
- d) **ISSMT8:** Attachment 1 indicates Attachment 2 reference is para. 3.1.2, While the TOC indicates that para. no., the text para. no. is 3.0.2.

**Answer 21:**

Attachment 1 Mandatory Requirements labelled as solicitation attachment 013 supersedes solicitation attachment 003 below.

[ABES.PROD.PW QT.B017.E28635.ATT003.PDF](#)

**Question 22:**

**Reference:**

- a) **ART7 - A1.6.1.17:** Rating Method identified for this requirement indicates that it is the number of entities. Scoring criteria is associated with range.
- b) **ART9:** Is it supposed to say "... 6 points for 3 plus miles over ..." instead of "2 plus miles" since 2 nautical miles are already included in the first 3 points?

**Answer 22:**

- a) The scoring is based on the range not based on the number of entities.
- b) ART9 has been updated. See revised Attachment 2 Rated Criteria herein. Attachment 2 Rated Criteria labelled as solicitation attachment 014 supersedes solicitation attachment 004 below.

[ABES.PROD.PW QT.B017.E28635.ATT004.PDF](#)

**Question 23:**

The RFP describes clearly how 3.2.1.b will be evaluated, does not do the same for section 3.2.1.a.

**Answer 23:**

The evaluation includes 3.2.1.a. and 3.2.1.b.

**Question 24:**

- a) When will the JTAC VTS portable design and development phase be completed?
- b) Where should the cost be reflected (is it in Pricing Table 1 Item 2 and 3)?

**Answer 24:**

- a) The JTAC VTS portable design and development phase will be completed in accordance with terms and condition of the resulting contract clause.
- b) Cost for the portable requirements must be reflected in Table 2 – Optional JTAC VTS Acquisition Requirements; and associated cost in Table 3, 4, 5 & 6.

**Question 25:**

Where should the price of the JTAC VTS portable design and development be included?

**Answer 25:**

All Pricing must be included in the excel spreadsheet labelled as Attachment 3 – Pricing Tables, under the respective tabs/tables.

**Question 26:**

Where are the requirements that are specific to the JTAC VTS portable?

**Answer 26:**

See Answer # 20 of solicitation amendment 004.

**Question 27:**

- a) What are the rooms' dimensions and power specifications?
- b) Are there any pictures of the existing rooms that can be shared?

**Answer 27:**

See Answer # 20 of solicitation amendment 004.

**Question 28:**

- a) How many static systems must be delivered within six (6) months of contract award?
- b) Is the intent to get systems delivered during the Project Phase, which is the design and development phase?

**Answer 28:**

- a) In accordance with the attached amended RFP one static system must be delivered within twelve months of contract award.
- b) In accordance with Article 7.6.2 Delivery Date of the RFP all deliverables must be received in accordance with the Statement of Work.

**Question 29:**

If a contractor would like to propose two different solutions with different features above and beyond the mandatory requirements, would Canada consider both and score each according to the rated criteria?

**Answer 29:**

No additional points will be given for requirements that goes above and beyond mandatory and rated requirements.

**Question 30:**

**Reference:**

Reference: Article 7.6.2.1 JTAC VTS static systems delivery and installation

The delivery of the JTAC VTS static systems must be delivered within six (6) months of contract award.

This delivery timeline is not realistic as some long lead items could take easily up to 6 months to procure in normal conditions. Due to the complexity of the requirements as well as hardware procurement lead time in the COVID era would Canada consider adjusting the delivery timeframe to 12-18 months after contract award to provide potential bidders with sufficient time to conduct all activities prior to contract award?

**Answer 30:**

Yes, the request to extend the delivery timeframe beyond the six month delivery timeframe has been accepted. The solicitation is hereby amended as follows:

1. On page 26 of the RFP, article 7.6 Term of Contract, sub-article 7.6.1.2, **DELETE** in its entirety and **INSERT** the following:

7.6.1.2 The **“Project Phase”**, which begins on the date of Contract award and ends twelve (12) months after contract award or sooner.

2. On page 26 of the RFP, article 7.6.2 **DELETE** the following:

**7.6.2 Delivery Date**

7.6.2.1 JTAC VTS static systems delivery and installation

The delivery of the JTAC VTS static systems must be delivered within six (6) months of contract award.

7.6.2.2 Delivery of Manuals, Publications, Contract Data Requirements List and Data Item Descriptions, and Initial Spares in accordance with Annex A -Statement of Work, Appendix 2.

All the deliverables must be received in accordance with Annex A - Statement of Work including.

7.6.2.3 Initial Training

Training must be delivered in accordance with Annex A - Statement of Work.

And **INSERT** the following in its place:

**7.6.2 Delivery Date**

7.6.2.1 JTAC VTS static systems delivery and installation

The delivery of the JTAC VTS static systems must be delivered within twelve (12) months of contract award.

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7.6.2.2 Delivery of Manuals, Publications, Contract Data Requirements List and Data Item Descriptions, and Initial Spares in accordance with Annex A -Statement of Work, Appendix 2.

All the deliverables must be received in accordance with Annex A - Statement of Work including.

7.6.2.3 Initial Training

Training must be delivered in accordance with Annex A - Statement of Work.

3. On page 30 of the RFP, **INSERT** the following:

**7.9.7 Incentives for Early Delivery Fee**

**7.9.7.1** If delivery of a Static JTAC VTS occurs before the date specified in Article 7.6.2 Delivery Date, at Canada's sole discretion Canada shall pay the Contractor upon acceptance in accordance with the SOW of the JTAC VTS an amount as indicated in the schedule below for each month of early delivery as an Early Delivery Incentive for Contractor's early delivery. The total sum of the Early Delivery payment can be no greater than 5% of the initial estimated acquisition contract value, up to a maximum of \$150K.

**7.9.7.2** As a prerequisite to being considered eligible for an Incentive for Early Delivery payment, the Contractor must first meet the minimum monthly Early incentives Period below:

- a) 5 months or over early delivery (5%);
- b) 3-4 months early (2%); and
- c) 1-2 months early (1%).

**For Example:**

Example Early Delivery Schedule Months							
		Month Conversion Days					
Company Name	Anticipated Delivery Date	Early Delivery	Days Early	30	Rounded Months	Early Delivery fee	Sample Estimated Initial Contract Value
Company ABZ	2023-08-01	2022-11-30	243.33	8.11	8.00	5%	\$ 2,000,000.00
Company DZE	2023-08-01	2023-06-01	60.83	2.03	2.00	1%	\$ 2,000,000.00
Company XXY	2023-08-01	2023-01-30	182.50	6.08	6.00	5%	\$ 2,000,000.00
Company FFF	2023-08-01	2023-07-15	17.00	0.57	1.00	1%	\$ 2,000,000.00

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Company GGG	2023-08-01	2023-05-01	92.00	3.07	3.00	2%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Company HHH	2023-08-01	2023-07-30	2.00	0.07	0.00	0%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -
Company III	2023-08-01	2023-08-02	-1.00	-0.03	0.00	0%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -
Example Early Delivery Schedule Days								
Company Name	Anticipated Delivery Date	Early Delivery	Days Early	Early Incentive Fee	Sample Estimated Initial Contract Value	Incentive Fee		
Company ABZ	2023-08-01	2022-11-30	243.33	5%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		
Company DZE	2023-08-01	2023-06-01	60.83	2%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 40,000.00		
Company XXY	2023-08-01	2023-01-30	182.50	5%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 100,000.00		
Company FFF	2023-08-01	2023-07-15	17.00	0%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ -		
Company GGG	2023-08-01	2023-05-01	92.00	2%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 40,000.00		
Company jjj	2023-08-01	2023-06-25	37.00	1%	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 20,000.00		

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Company HHH	2023-08-01	2023-07-30	2.00	0%	\$	2,000,000.00	\$	-	
Company III	2023-08-01	2023-08-02	-1.00	0%	\$	2,000,000.00	\$	-	

Incentive Key Prorated	
Less than 30 Days Early	0
Between 30 and 60 days early	0.01
Between 61 and 120 days early	0.02
121 days and over	0.05

7.9.7.3 The Project Authority (PA) will consult with the Contractor and then notify the Contractor in writing of any Early Delivery Incentive payment that is to be made available.

#### 7.9.8 Liquidated Damages

7.9.8.1 If the Contractor fails to deliver the goods or perform the services within the time specified in the Contract, the Contractor agrees to pay to Canada liquidated damages in the amount of 1 percent of the initial estimated acquisition contract value for each month of delay beyond the twelve month post contract award delivery date. The total amount of the liquidated damages must not exceed 10 percent of the initial estimated acquisition contract value.

7.9.8.2 Canada and the Contractor agree that the amount stated above is their best pre-estimate of the loss to Canada in the event of a delay beyond the 12 month post contract award delivery date, and that it is not intended to be, nor is it to be interpreted as, a penalty. The Obligations in this section 7.9.8 are intended to protect Canada from the financial losses that it will incur if the Contractor fails to deliver the Work on schedule (i.e., After the date established in Article 7.6.2).

7.9.8.3 Canada will have the right to hold back, drawback, deduct or set off from and against the amounts of any monies owing at any time by Canada to the Contractor, any liquidated damages owing and unpaid under this section.



7.9.8.4 Nothing in this section must be interpreted as limiting the rights and remedies which Canada may otherwise have under the Contract.

**Question 31:**

Reference: Attachment 1 Mandatory Requirements; Table 1 – AMT8

AMT8 requires that "The system must be capable of being housed within the existing locations of the legacy fleet (The system must be installed as a fixed installation in the locations currently occupied by the IFFS)" with the required substantiation to include a schematic to demonstrate how a capability would be housed within available infrastructure.

Please provide the location information for the IFFS installations (e.g., facility report, diagrams, dimension, power and HVAC capacity, etc.).

**Answer 31:**

Refer to RFP solicitation amendment 004.

**Question 32:**

Reference: pages 4 of 38 1.2.1, P. 2 of 6 SOW, Annex B, and Pricing Tables Annex B.

Page 4 of the RFP in 1.2.1, the quantities indicated are " to procure one static JTAC VTS for delivery to 5 CDSB Gagetown as soon as possible and the option to procure one additional static and 2 portable JTAC VTS. However, Attachment 3 (Pricing tables) show quantities of 1 Static JTAC VTS and options for 1 Static JTAC VTS and 3 Portable JTAC VTS systems. Please confirm quantities that will be procured.

**Answer 32:**

The solicitation is hereby amended as follows:

1. On page 4 of 38 of the RFP, article 1.2 Summary, sub-article 1.2.1, **DELETE** the following:

- 1.2.1 The Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) on behalf of the Department of National Defence (DND) has a requirement to acquire and support the static Joint Terminal Attack Controller Virtual Training System (JTAC VTS). The JTAC VTS will support the training required to force generate accredited Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC). In order to achieve accreditation JTAC must meet the requirements identified in Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) (Ground) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). DND has an immediate need to force generate accredited JTAC and intend to procure one static JTAC VTS for delivery to 5 CDSB Gagetown as soon as possible and the option to procure one additional static and 2 portable JTAC VTS.

and **INSERT** the following:

- 1.2.1 The Department of Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) on behalf of the Department of National Defence (DND) has a requirement to acquire and support the static Joint Terminal Attack Controller Virtual Training System (JTAC VTS). The JTAC VTS will support the training required to force generate accredited Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC). In order to achieve accreditation JTAC must meet the requirements identified in Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) (Ground) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). DND has an immediate need to force generate accredited JTAC and intend to procure

one static JTAC VTS for delivery to 5 CDSB Gagetown as soon as possible and the option to procure up to one (1) additional static and three (3) portable JTAC VTS.

**Question 33:**

Reference: SOW Appendix 1, pages 52-96

Appendix 1 clearly states the requirements for the Static JTAC VTS but Portable technical requirements are never delineated or broken out.

Please confirm if it is the DND's intent that the Portable system meet and/or match the same specifications as the static system?

**Answer 33:**

Yes, please refer to RFP solicitation amendment 004

**Question 34:**

Reference: Page A/7 of 230, Item 1.2.3

The SOW Appendix A states: The JTAC MOA identifies two different versions of the virtual trainers; a non-deployable static version that is used in a classroom setting, and a deployable version that can be used to enhance other forms of field training and exercises. The initial JTAC VTS solution will require the design, development, production and delivery of the static classroom version. However, the SOW never indicates the threshold and objective criteria for the portable system.

Please confirm the portable system requirements such as size, weight, power, HVAC, set-up and tear-down, shipping and ruggedization (if any), traditional display system or some variant of AR/VR?

**Answer 34:**

Yes, please refer to RFP solicitation amendment 004

**Question 35:**

The attachments identify the total number of devices to be acquired as 5 (static guaranteed, static option, 3 portable options) but list 4 locations for delivery and install. Please confirm location laydown and any specific constraints by location such as space, power, HVAC, etc.

**Answer 35:**

Yes, please refer to RFP solicitation amendment 004

**Question 36:**

The RFP and SOW indicate the acquisition will be 1 Static VTS guaranteed, 1 Static JTAC VTS (Option) and 3 Portable JTAC VTS (Options) however the SOW section 12.1.1 and 12.1.2 states that The Contractor must install JTAC VTS Static installations at the following locations in the quantities and at the timing to be determined by DND:

12.1.2.1 5 Canadian Division Support Base (CDSB) Gagetown;

12.1.2.2 2 CDSB Valcartier:

12.1.2.3 3 CDSB Shilo; and

12.1.2.4 4 CDSB Petawawa

Please confirm which locations are static and which are portable.

**Answer 36:**

Currently there is a requirement for 1 Static device at Canadian Division Support Base (CDSB) Galetown.

Per section 1.5.1 Timelines of the SOW. any additional static or portable device including the location will be determined and procured on an-as-and when required basis.

**Question 37:**

Reference: Page A/58, A1.6.1.6.14

Paragraph A1.6.1.6 states "The system must be a fully accredited system under the JTAC MOA and ATP 3-09.3 for the controls identified in this SRS. These are:" with the fourteenth item listed being "VMF Digitally Aided Close Air Support (DACAS) controls."

Which DACAS application is applicable? Please clarify.

**Answer 37:**

DACAS is a standard protocol, all systems must meet NATO accreditation.

**Question 38:**

Reference: Page. A/59, A1.6.1.16 - A1.6.1.16.4

The system should be capable of conducting the following mission types:

DACAS missions identified in this SRS;

Cursor-on-Target (COT) DACAS missions;

Link-16 DACAS missions; and

Network Enabled Weapons (NEW) DACAS missions.

- a) Which DACAS platform is required to be supported?
- b) Can an associated weapons list be provided?

Please clarify.

**Answer 38:**

- a) DACAS is a standard protocol, all systems must meet NATO accreditation.
- b) The weapons list is detailed in the JTAC MOA and the RFP SOW.

**Question 39:**

Reference: Page. A/58, A/59

The Statement of Work references MOA Table B.3.6 multiple times.

The latest MOA does not contain the referenced table.

Please clarify the version of MOA and/or associated Table reference.

**Answer 39:**

Please refer to criteria's of the current MOA.

**Question 40:**

Can a copy of the NATO HQ AIRCOM FAC Standardization Team (FST} Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Simulator Assessment Checklist be provided?

**Answer 40:**

All reference documents contained in the MOA are accessible via SHAPE to NATO accredited bidders.

**Question 41:**

Reference: page. A/63 A1.9.7

Paragraph A1.9.7 states "The system Scenario Builder must simulate the Aircraft Pods and Targeting equipment (including connectivity and data transfers) as detailed below:".

Please clarify the intent and/or scope of both "connectivity" and "data transfers" - particularly given that this appears under the "Scenario Builder and Synthetic Environment" section.

**Answer 41:**

Please refer to the JTAC MOA and RFP SOW.

The system must emulate the forementioned targeting pods referenced in para A1.9.7 in all phases of system operation.

**Question 42:**

Reference: SOW page. A/69 para A1.11.12:

The system should be able to display a CAF CFF interface IAW, B-GL-371- 004/FP-001 and ATP 3-09.32.

Please provide a copy of B-GL-371-004/FP-001

**Answer 42:**

In accordance with article 2.7 Supporting Documentation, paragraph 2 of the RFP, Bidders must complete and sign the attached Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) and return it to the Contracting Authority before they are given access to the information.

Once the signed NDA is received, the Contracting Authority will issue the documents directly to the Bidder via epost connect.

**Question 43:**

- a) The pricing tables tab "ISS" cells I13 to I17 are protected and require a password.
- b) The pricing tables tab "ISS" cells O26 to O32 are protected and require a password.

**Answer 43:**

Cells mentioned in both a) and b) have been unlocked.  
Revised pricing table distributed via solicitation amendment 004

**Question 44:**

The pricing tables tab "instructions" state under Material Additional Work Request (AWR) Pricing and (AWR) Pricing Optional the estimated level of material is \$5,000; while tab "ISS" cells B44 to F44 estimated cost are \$20,000.

**Answer 44:**

The amount is not relevant, the amounts indicated are for evaluation purposes only.

**Question 45:**

Section A1.6.1.15 of the RFP states:

*"The system must be designed such that a minimum of one (1) trainee are able to interact with the simulator, with full freedom of movement at the centre point of the display"*

Will other trainees be observing the current training session?

**Answer 45:**

If possible yes, but not required.

**Question 46:**

Section A1.8.1.6.3 of the RFP states:

*"At the Gagetown location, the system should be capable of connecting multiple role-playing stations to a scenario simultaneously and locally to enable multiple users or scalable SME within the same scenario."*

Is the intent to be able to reconfigure potentially unused SME to use as additional role play positions on an ad hoc basis?

**Answer 46:**

No, Canada requires a system that is NATO accredited.

**Question 47:**

**Reference:**

Section A1.13.4.12 of the RFP states:

*"The system must include an SME Thermal Imaging Optic (TIO) modelled after a TIO in use by NATO militaries"*

- a) Does the DND have a preferred device?
- b) What is/will be used operationally?

**Answer 47:**

- a) No, as long as the simulated or emulated devices meets the requirements and are in accordance with the JTAC VTS SOW.
- b) It will be use for training purposes.

**Question 48:**

Section A1.16.5 of the RFP states:

*"The system must be capable of using the radios as detailed below (provided as Government Furnished*

*Equipment (GFE) to connect to the external DACAS system"*

Section A1.17.1 of the RFP states:

*"The system must include a simulated push-to-talk radio interface between the trainee, Instructor, and any other non-AI entity within the synthetic environment"*

Are the GFE radios to be used exclusively for VMF data transmission and the simulated radios exclusively for voice comms?

**Answer 48:**

Both scenarios will be acceptable as long as they meet the minimum requirements.

**Question 49:**

Section A1.25.2 of the RFP states:

*"The system elements must be capable of operation in a temperature environment of +5 degrees C to +35 degrees C"*

- a) Are there HVAC systems in place to ensure ambient temperatures remain in this window?
- b) Is there anywhere in the facility that could be used for equipment that may generate a lot of heat (e.g. server racks)?

**Answer 49:**

- a) Yes, there will be an HVAC system to ensure ambient temperature.
- b) There is no dedicated facility.

**Question 50:**

Section A1.25.5 of the RFP states:

*"The system elements must be capable of operation using the standard North American system (110 volts, 60 Hertz, single phase)"*

Are there any limits on the power that the system can draw from the facility?

**Answer 50:**

The system must operate within the Canadian building code.

**Question 51:**

Reference: Solicitation amendment 004 Answer #18

Portable systems usually do not inherit the same requirements as the static system because of their size and the ability to be transported, so it is unclear how Canada wants both the static and portable to meet the same requirements.

- a) Based on the answer 18, Is Canada expecting the portable/Deployable/mobile versions of the JTAC VTS to meet the requirements of A1.14 Projection System and A1.15 Displays?
- b) Are we providing NVG Stimulation as well for the portable systems?
- c) Is the portable system required to meet the 180 degrees minimum horizontal field of view?
- d) Is there any difference in height requirements between the static and portable systems?
- e) Are there any requirements on the set up time of the portable systems?
- f) Are there any requirements of the transportability of the portable systems?

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**Answer 51:**

- a) Yes, all HLRs must be met.
- b) See MOA and SOW for specs to be met.
- c) See MOA and SOW for specs to be met.
- d) No as long as HLRs are met.
- e) See definition of portable systems as defined in ISO 9001**
- f) See definition of portable systems as defined in ISO 9001

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.**