



# SHARED SERVICES CANADA

## Request for Proposal for Wide-Area Network (WAN) Provider (P) and Provider Edge (PE) router “Solution”

Solicitation No.	BPM016552	Date	July 11, 2022
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Closing Date and Time	<b>Date and Time</b> <b>July 29, 2022 @ 3:00 PM / 1500 h</b> (referred to in this solicitation as “ <b>Solicitation Closing</b> ”)	
Time Zone	Eastern Daylight Time (EST)	
Destination of Goods/Services	Canada	
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**Request for Proposal  
for  
Wide-Area Network (WAN) Provider (P) and Provider Edge (PE) router “Solution”  
AMENDMENT 003**

**This amendment has been raised to:**

- Answer questions posed by potential respondents
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**Question 4**

**Reference:** 4.63 - Must propose products from the same Original Equipment Manufacturer for all configurations

**Question:** Can a Bidder propose “passive” components from third parties (i.e. QSA adapters, breakout cables, brackets, cable management, etc.)?

**Answer 4:**

If the bidder certifies that the components are fully compatible with the proposed platform and won't limit or prevent SSC from obtaining technical support from the OEM, passive components from third parties can be proposed. Transceivers are not considered passive components in this context.

**Question 5**

**Reference:** Requirement 8.2 - Must be compatible with ports specified in requirements 1.1, 2.2 and 3.2; and Requirement 9.2 - Must be compatible with ports specified in requirements 1.1, 2.2 and 3.2.

**Question:** Requirements 8.2 and 9.2 are mandating the support of 10GBase-LR and 10GBase-SR in the ports specified in Requirement 1.1, which is for the WAN P Router Configuration where no 10GbE port is required. As such, we respectfully ask SSC to correct Requirements 8.2 and 9.2 to read: “Must be compatible with ports specified in requirements 2.2 and 3.2”.

**Answer 5:**

SSC has amended requirement 8.2 and 9.2. Please see revised Annex C.

**Question 6**

**Reference:** 2.26 - Must have In Service Software Upgrade (ISSU) or equivalent functionality

**Question:** We respectfully ask that SSC remove this requirement as industry best practice is to run two PE routers in each site for “Dual Homing”.

**Answer 6:**

In many cases, only one link between CE and PE routers is in place due to limited dark fibre availability and no path diversity. As such, the ability to upgrade PE router firmware without traffic interruption is required. SSC will not remove requirement 2.26.

**Question 7**

**Reference:** 3.26 - Must have In Service Software Upgrade (ISSU) or equivalent functionality

**Question:** We ask that SSC remove this requirement as industry best practice is to run two PE routers in each site for "Dual Homing".

**Answer 7:**

In many cases, only one link between CE and PE routers is in place due to limited dark fibre availability and no path diversity. As such, the ability to upgrade PE router firmware without traffic interruption is required. SSC will not remove requirement 3.26.

**Question 8**

**Reference:** 2.15 - Must have IKEv2, pre-shared key and PKI-based device authentication functionality

**Question:** There are no other IPsec requirements and/or specifications in this RFP as such, we ask that SSC remove Requirement 2.15.

**Answer 8:**

SSC has removed requirement 2.15 and 3.15. Please see revised Annex C.

**Question 9**

**Reference:** Requirement 1.6 - Must have 100GbE breakout into 10GbE transceiver ports...

**Question:** We ask that SSC remove this requirement as this capability is vendor specific and ensures that only one OEM can meet Requirement 1.6 which will ensure only one technically compliant OEM bid is received by SSC for this solicitation. We respectfully ask that SSC change Requirement 1.6 to allow 40GbE breakout into 4 x 10GbE, which is an industry standard.

**Answer 9:**

SSC has amended requirement 1.6 to include both 40GbE and 100GbE breakout. Please see revised Annex C.

**Question 10**

**Reference:** 1.2 Summary, (d), iv- that the initial installation and deployment of the WAN P and PE Solution does not fulfill SSC and Client requirements, Canada reserves the right to not proceed with the acquisition of the remaining components of the proposed Solution as detailed in the Contract. Canada also reserves the right to terminate the Contract and enter into a Contract with the Bidder whose proposal was evaluated to be the next best.

**Question:** Can SSC advise which requirements in the solicitation are "SSC Requirements" and which requirements are "Client Requirements"? Are both sets of requirements (SSC and Client) the same? Further, can SSC confirm that all SSC and Client requirements are fully documented within this solicitation in order for bidders to assess their legal risk?

**Answer 10:**

The technical requirements in Annex C and the capabilities that are part of the testing plan in Annex D represents SSC's and its clients' requirements for P and PE routers.

**Question 11:**

Can SSC please advise under what competitive solicitation the in-place P and PE routers were procured?

**Answer 11:**

The inquiry is not related to the current solicitation.

**Question 12:**

With respect to the test plan in Annex D, can SSC advise what OEM and models are the in-place CE and PE Routers with which the Bidders products will have to prove interoperability with?

**Answer 12:**

Existing CE and PE routers are from Cisco Systems. The platforms that will be used for testing purposes will be ASR 1000 and ASR 9000 series devices.

**Question 13:**

Can SSC confirm what date and time is the deadline to ask questions for this solicitation?

**Answer 13:**

As per Buy and Sell posting description

**Deadline for Enquiries:** July 24, 2022 (3:00 PM/1500) Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) (11:00 AM) Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). **Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.**

**Question 14:**

**Reference:** Annex B - Items 2.1a, 2.1b, 2.1c, 2.1d, 3.1a, 3.1b, 3.1c, 3.1d

**Question:** Can SSC confirm that these "Line Card Types" correspond to the Port requirements in Requirements 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, and 3.3.3 respectfully?

**Answer 14:**

SSC confirms. The "Expansion" sections of Annex B are for the bidder to propose the line cards that will be needed to meet the total expansion capacity of Annex C requirements 2.3 and 3.3.

**Question 15:**

**Reference:** Requirements 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2

**Question:** Can SSC confirm that these port requirements must be met concurrently/simultaneously in any given Configuration (1, 2, or 3)?

**Answer 15:**

SSC confirms. The bidder must simultaneously meet requirements 1.1 and 1.2 for the P router, 2.1 and 2.2 for the standard PE router, 3.1 and 3.2 for the enterprise PE router.

**Question 16**

**Reference:** Requirements 2.6 - Must have optical support for 1GbE, 10GbE and 100 GbE MACsec-capable transceivers

**Question:** We believe this Requirement is missing the word “ports”. We ask that SSC confirm that Requirement 2.6 should read: “Must have optical support for 1GbE, 10GbE and 100 GbE MACsec-capable transceiver ports”

**Answer 16:**

SSC has reviewed requirement 2.6 and 3.6 and found that they are already represented through other port and transceiver requirements. The requirements have been removed. Please see revised Annex C.

**Question 17**

**Reference:** Requirement 4.61 - Must include perpetual licenses where available or the maximum term sold for any term licenses.

**Question:** Can SSC confirm that a bidder can choose to bid Term Licenses if they wish even if they offer perpetual licenses but with the caveat that the bid Term Licenses must be of the longest term available (i.e. 5 years)?

**Answer 17:**

SSC requires perpetual licenses for any license offered with a perpetual option. Where no perpetual license exists, the bidder must propose the longest available license term (typically 5 years or 7 years).

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**Modification 002**

**Annex C – Statement of Requirements** has been updated and version 2.0 is available in the attachment section of this Solicitation

**ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAINS THE SAME**