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Gatineau

Québec

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

Informatics Professional Services Division / Division
des services professionnels en informatique

Les Terrasses de la Chaudière

10, rue Wellington, 4ième

étage/Floor

Gatineau

Québec

K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet IT Security/Business Continuity Sécurité des TI /continuité des activités	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation 45045-200073/A	Amendment No. - N° modif. 004
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client 000012052	Date 2022-07-20
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$ZM-613-41037	
File No. - N° de dossier 613zm.45045-200073	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 2022-08-02 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: Pierre, Anoule	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 613zm
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone (613) 858-8317 ()	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 45045-200073/A	Amd. No – N° de la modif. 004	Buyer ID – Id de l’acheteur 613ZM
Client Ref. No. – N° de réf. De client 45045-200073	File No. – N° du dossier 613ZM-45045-200073	CCC No./ N° CCC – FMS No/ N° VME

SOLICITATION AMENDMENT 004

This amendment is raised to:

- 1. Provide answers to Bidder’s questions in relation to this solicitation; and**

QUESTIONS:

Question #24

Please refer to section MTC5 where it states “The Bidder must demonstrate its contract experience directly supplying at least 5 categories of the resources* listed in the table below. The Bidder must have directly** billed the required minimum days per resource for the past 60 months, from the bid closing date.”

To provide more clarity, would Stats Canada please consider modifying this requirement to read: “The Bidder must demonstrate its contract experience directly supplying at least 5 categories of the resources* listed in the table below. The Bidder must have directly** billed the required minimum days per resource **category** for the past 60 months, from the bid closing date.”

Answer 24

The Crown accepts the suggested wording for clarification.

“The Bidder must demonstrate its contract experience directly supplying at least 5 categories of the resources* listed in the table below. The Bidder must have directly** billed the required minimum days per resource category for the past 60 months, from the bid closing date.”

Question #25

In section RTC4, “The Bidder should demonstrate that it holds a current and valid ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS*) certification.” In other submissions for the federal government a certification for Excellence Canada Gold Level was deemed acceptable as equivalent to ISO 9001. Would Stats Canada consider modifying this rated requirement to accept National Quality Institute (NQI) Gold designation as an acceptable equivalent to an ISO designation and have it score the same?

This designation has been accepted in the following RFPs in the past: Indigenous Services Canada - Solicitation #1000236167, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada – Solicitation #:1000239546 and Canada Revenue Agency – Solicitation #: 5500000971.

Answer 25

The crown will not accept NQI Gold designation as an acceptable equivalent to ISO 9001 at this time.

Question #26

Solicitation No. – N° de l'invitation 45045-200073/A	Amd. No – N° de la modif. 004	Buyer ID – Id de l'acheteur 613ZM
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RC4: ISO CERTIFICATION "The bidder should demonstrate that it holds a current and valid ISO 9001 Quality Management System (QMS*) certification. The Bidder must provide a readable PDF copy of the certification in English or French with its bid. *A Quality Management System (QMS) is a set of policies, processes and procedure required for planning and execution (production/development/service) in the core business area of an organization."

Can we ask the crown to remove RC4 and the rated points for third-party certification?

The rationale for this request is as follows:

ISO9001, as an example, was introduced in 1987 and it was very much in vogue in the early 1990's in Europe and later in 90's in North America, especially if you wanted to deliver goods and service to the European Market. While a few firms, including our own, invested heavily in the processes achieving the standard in the mid 90's the Canadian government dismissed the need for the standard for more than twenty years. It rarely was ever requested or required. That along with the exorbitant costs associated with audits and ongoing qualifications (both financial and human resources costs) led to the business decision to let the certification lapse. The Service Model and Service Practice are still inherent to the day-to-day operation of the company but the certification is long gone. The only firms who would retain the certification would be multi nationals. Canadian firms would see no meaningful benefit given the crowns lack of adoption over twenty-five years.

In addition, the response to RC1, RC2 and RC3 clearly articulate the corporate capabilities, processes, and methodology and the service levels in the IT Consulting Community have become industry standards that really no longer require third-party certification.

Answer 26

English: The crown declines to remove the requirement at this time. If a bidder can demonstrate clear, concise and relevant description of policies, processes and procedures of QMS, they will achieve 3/5 possible points on this rated criteria.

Question #27

Page 89 of the RFP says that Common SRCL #19 will be inserted as a separate attachment, but we cannot locate it elsewhere in the document. Can you please provide a copy?

Answer 27

The SCL #19 has been provided within Solicitation amendment 002, at the second part of the document.

Question #28

Are Bidders still required to complete Attachment 5.2 COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement Certification?

Answer 28

No, this certification is no longer required.

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Question #29

Although Mandatory Criteria MTC1 does not reference a requirement for Bidders to obtain a client reference signature (only to provide customer contact information), we note that Form M1-1, which has been provided to assist Bidders in structuring the required information, has a section for Client Reference Signature.

Please confirm whether Bidders are required to obtain Client Reference Signatures for all contracts cited in response to MTC1? If yes, we request an additional extension to the bid closing deadline of 2 weeks to allow Bidders enough time to coordinate with client references and obtain signatures, which already requires a high level of effort in typical circumstances, but takes even longer during the summer when many Canadian Federal Government employees are on vacation.

Answer 29

A Client Reference Signature is not required, customer contact information is sufficient.
