

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of the requirement

The Department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has a requirement to develop a Materials Acceleration Platform-based lithium separation and recovery technology that can successfully and autonomously recover and convert Li from battery recycling waste streams into battery grade lithium carbonate.

The work will involve the following:

- 1) adapting an existing automated platform to enable autonomous control of:
 - a) processing conditions;
 - b) brine concentrations.

- 2) conducting experiments and evaluating the efficacy of lithium carbonate formation and purity of product in comparison to battery grade lithium carbonate as determined by emerging ISO battery grade Lithium standards (min purity ~99.9%).

- 3) develop and implement a data representation and sharing framework.

- 4) transfer knowledge to enable NRCan staff to build a similar automated system at their facility.

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3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

- a) The supplier possesses an active platform for the extraction of Lithium containing brines that can be readily automated to explore the impacts of brine chemistry on Lithium Carbonate purity through automated in-direct and direct characterization techniques.
- b) The supplier must have previous experience in a multi-year pilot scale Lithium extraction from Lithium-brines with a Lithium Carbonate purity >99.7% in a single integrated process within the last five (5) years.
- c) The supplier must demonstrate a minimum of three (3) years of experience developing materials acceleration platforms within the last five (5) years.
- d) The supplier must demonstrate a minimum of eight (8) years of experiencing building platforms to automate and integrate chemical synthesis and characterization within the last 12 years.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement

This procurement is subject to the following trade agreement(s)

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA)
- World Trade Organization - Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP)
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA)
- Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement
- Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement
- Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement
- Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement
- Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA)

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5. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The supplier mentioned in section 11 below is the only known supplier that meets the mandatory criteria set out in section 3 above.

Should Canada receive a statement of capabilities from a supplier that contains sufficient information to indicate that it meets the requirements set forth in this ACAN, a competitive process will be triggered with a technical and financial evaluation methodology of the bids proposed by the potential bidders

6. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6 (d) - only one person is capable of performing the work.

The identified supplier, Telescope Innovations, is the only one able to meet all of the criteria identified in paragraph 3 above.

7. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

The following exclusion(s) and/or limited tendering reasons are invoked under the:

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) – Article: 513.1(b) (iii);
- World Trade Organization - Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP) – Under the Revised GPA - Article XIII, 1 (b) (iii);
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) – Article(s) Article 19.12 (b) (iii)
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) – Article(s): 15.10 , 2 (b) (iii) (s)
- Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) – Article(s) Kbis-09 (b),Article Kbis-09 (c)
- Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement – Article(s): 1409 (b) (iii);
- Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement – Article(s): 17.11 2 (b) (iii)
- Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement – Article 14.3, Under the Revised GPA - Article XIII, 1 (b) (iii);
- Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement – Article(s) 16.10 (b) (iii)
- Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA) – Article(s)1409 (b) (iii)

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8. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Contractor.

9. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is from contract award to March 31, 2024.

10. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract, including option, is less than \$ 275 000 (GST/HST extra).

11. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

Telescope Innovations (formerly "Culmina Ventures Corp.")
1600 - 609 Granville Street P.O. Box 10068
Pacific Centre Vancouver, BC
V7Y 1C3

12. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person identified in this notice on or before the closing date of this notice. The statement of capabilities must clearly demonstrate how the supplier meets the advertised requirements.

13. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is August 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. EDT).

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14. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Caroline Roberge
Senior Procurement Officer
Natural Resources Canada
1055, P.E.P.S. Street, P.O. 10380
Quebec, QC G1V 4C7
418 572-7693
Caroline.Roberge@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca