Advance Contract Award Notice

1.0   Introduction

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has a requirement to perform a "proof of concept" (PoC) and acquire software to enable authoring, management and publishing of structured data/content based on the DITA standards involving regulatory information.

The software acquisition has a requirement to be implemented within the CNSC Azure/MS 365 (Microsoft) cloud tenant approved for up to protected B designated information using MS 365 applications.

The purpose of this advance contract award notice (ACAN) is to signal the CNSC's intention to award a contract for these services to:

Dita Exchange
Katrinebjerg Science Park
Asbogade 15
8200 Aarhus N
Denmark

Before awarding a contract, however, the CNSC would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this ACAN, by submitting a statement of capabilities within the posting period for this ACAN, which is 15 calendar days.

If, during the posting period, other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in this ACAN, the CNSC may proceed to a full tendering process via the Government Electronic Tendering Service or by inviting bids directly from suppliers.

If no other supplier submits, on or before the closing date, a statement of capabilities meeting the requirements set out in the ACAN, a contract will be awarded to the above-noted supplier.

2.0   Background

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is the nuclear energy and materials regulator in Canada. The mission of CNSC is to regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security, and the environment; and to respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Nuclear activities are carefully regulated to ensure their safe operation.

The CNSC private cloud-based structured content solution will enable constructing of CNSC information in a structured and reusable manner that will allow automatic updates to the content across the organization. The solution will enable structured content authoring and management in Microsoft 365 environment.

The proposed contract includes two parts; the first is a proof of concept (PoC) and the second is the purchase of software licenses. The initial phase is expected to be for a period of 3 months. There will be 3 option periods of one year each to extend/purchase additional licenses and services.

The estimated value of the contract, including the option periods, is $228,276.00 USD. Applicable taxes are extra.

3.0 Minimum Mandatory Requirements

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

3.1 Solution Requirements

The software to be acquired must meet the following requirements:

R1.1	Be fully compatible and following "Distributed Information Technology Architecture" (DITA) standards
R1.2	Be fully Cloud-based within an Azure/MS 365 tenant with Canadian data residency.
R1.3	Be deployable within CNSC's Protected B, medium integrity and medium availability (PBMM) Azure/MS 365 Cloud without connections back to the supplier to meet the CNSC security requirements
R1.4	Information must remain in GoC standard MS 365 formats and under SharePoint records management controls
R1.5	Provide capability to structure document content into topics or pieces that can be pulled into document maps that are published as needed
R1.6	Provide capability to automate review flows and approvals
R1.7	Provide capability to add structure to content development to standardize information across the organization
R1.8	Provide capability for parallel authors from several business lines across the organization to contribute to content creation at the same time
R1.9	Have built-in content maps available and ready for use
R1.10	Provide drag and drop functionality when building document maps
R1.11	Provide capability to mix and match DITA XML and Word topics within a single document map or across maps
R1.12	Provide capability to use various authoring tools including MS Word, and XML Web authoring tools
R1.13	Provide capability to customize the look and feel of documents
R1.14	Provide capability to publish to branded PDF or MS Word documents
R1.15	Provide capability to extend MS Word capabilities to incorporate DITA features such as content reference into topics
R1.16	Provide capability to automatically generate HTML or XML renditions of topics for presentation on a publishing site
R1.17	Provide capability to export content for translation and track status of translation jobs in process
R1.18	Provide capability to see where a topic is used, find orphan topics and broken links
R1.19	Provide capability to search based on metadata and content

3.2 Supplier Requirements

The supplier must meet the following requirements:

R2.1	Must be a Microsoft partner
R2.2	Must provide professional services on an as and when required basis
R2.3	Must provide training material and services on as and when required basis
R2.4	Must provide software upgrades of product functionality and alignment with Microsoft dependent applications over the lifetime of the contract.
R2.5	Must provide patches to software bugs and security issues over the lifetime of the contract.
R2.6	Must provide software administration and engineering support to CNSC over the lifetime of the contract.

3.3 Other Requirements

Proof of Concept – The supplier must be able to support the CNSC in completing a successful proof-of-concept, meeting the following requirements.

R3.1.1	Allow the CNSC to try-out reusing functionality at the topic level, i.e. reusing full topics across multiple deliverables and publishing deliverables with different look and feel by applying different publishing templates
R3.1.2	Allow CNSC to carry out the proof of concept without the need for any installation on the CNSC's side, i.e. all user tasks to be achieved using a browser
R3.1.3	Allow content authoring and editing using Word Online, or Word available on the user's workstation
R3.1.4	Allow users to achieve reuse at the paragraph or data-level
R3.1.5	Provide capability to create and manage a topic/metadata library (and restrict access to specific users);
R3.1.6	Provide capability to collect feedback concurrently from contributors and approvers, while tracking versions, users' changes and maintain version control
R3.1.7	Provide capability to manage templates without coding knowledge
R3.1.8	Provide capability to manage separate look and feel to content
R3.1.9	Ability to manage language translation process (English to French)
R3.1.10	Provide capability to import and tag current documents without loss of document integrity
R3.1.11	Provide capability to publish to PDF and HTML5 to enable web site publishing
R3.1.12	Provide capability to search based on metadata and content
R3.1.13	Provide capability to re-use topics in multiple templates
R3.1.14	Demonstrate the capability that with little to no knowledge of the technology used in the system, Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) and management can continue to collaborate on regulatory documents (e.g. provide input or view documents)
R3.1.15	Capability to time box the proof-of-concept activities and complete it within 3 (three) months after the formal launch, following the contract award.

4.0 Justification for the Pre-selected Supplier

CNSC believes that DitaExchange is the only source capable of successfully performing the work as their service offering meets all the functional and technical requirements needed by the CNSC. In addition, DitaExchange is the owner and creator of the solution and holds exclusive Intellectual Property rights to the technology. No other distributor is legally authorized to distribute the technology.

5.0   Policy Information

Limited tendering of this requirement is consistent with the provisions of the:
- Government Contracts Regulations Section 6, where only one firm is capable of performing the contract and additionally, as per the:
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Article 513 Section 1 (b);
- Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement, Part 3, Article Kbis-09 1 b;
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, Chapter 15, Part 15-10, section 2 (b)
- Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 14, Article 1409, Section b.
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, Chapter 19, article 19.12, section b.
- Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 17, Article 17.11, Section 2 (b)
- Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 14
- Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 16, Article 16.10, Section 1 b.
- Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement, Article 1409 Section 1. (b)
- Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 10, Article 10.13, Section (b)
- Canada-United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement, Chapter 19, article 19.12, section b. of CETA applies
- World Trade Organization-Agreement on Government Procurement, Chapter XV, Article XlII, Section 1 b.

6.0   Intellectual Property

Ownership of any foreground intellectual property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the contractor.

7.0   Statement of Capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to meet the specified requirements may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contracting authority 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.

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is September 2, 2022 at 2:00 PM EDT.

8.0   Contact Information

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed in writing to:

Solicitation
solicitation-demandedesoumission@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca