



## RETURN BIDS TO / RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À :

Attention: Farrah Bartal  
 Department of Finance Canada  
 Email only: [procurement-provisionnement@fin.gc.ca](mailto:procurement-provisionnement@fin.gc.ca)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL AMENDMENT

## DEMANDE DE DE PROPOSITION MODIFICATION

**Proposal To: Department of Finance**  
**Proposition au : Ministère des Finances Canada**

We hereby offer to sell to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out herein, referred to herein or attached hereto, the goods, services, and construction listed herein and on any attached sheets at the price(s) set out thereof.

**Instructions : See Herein**

**This document contains a Security Requirement.**

Nous offrons par la présente de vendre à Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada, aux conditions énoncées ou incluses par référence dans la présente et aux annexes ci-jointes, les biens, services et construction énumérés ici sur toute feuille ci-annexée, au ou aux prix indiqués.

**Instructions : Voir aux présentes**

**Ce document contient une exigence de sécurité.**



<b>Title - Sujet</b> Financial Sector Legislative Review on the Digitalization of Money Examen législatif du secteur financier sur la numérisation de l'argent	
<b>Solicitation No. – No de l'invitation:</b> FIN-20220497	<b>Publication Date - Date de publication:</b> July 25, 2022
<b>Date of Amendment - Date de la modification :</b> September 02, 2022	<b>Amendment No. - Modification No.</b> 002
<b>Financial Code(s) – Code(s) financier(s)</b> G/L: 4670 - CO:0060 - FC: 907101 - FA: 6150	<b>GSIN Code(s) - Code(s) NIBS</b> R019F: Consulting Services - Services de consultation
<b>GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG :</b> PW-22-01002377 <a href="#">Financial Sector Legislative Review on the Digitalization of Money (FIN-20220497) - Buyandsell.gc.ca</a> <a href="#">Examen législatif du secteur financier sur la numérisation de l'argent (FIN-20220497) - Achatsetventes.gc.ca</a>	
<b>Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin:</b>  at 02 :00 PM EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) 14:00 Heure avancée de l'Est (HAE) on September 12, 2022 – 12 septembre 2022	
<b>Solicitation Authority - Responsable de l'invitation:</b>  Name-Nom: Farrah Bartal Title-Titre: Senior Procurement and Officer Branch: Corporate Services Branch Email - Courriel: <a href="mailto:procurement-provisionnement@fin.gc.ca">procurement-provisionnement@fin.gc.ca</a>	
<b>Security Requirement - Exigences de sécurité : OUI/NON</b> Personnel : Facility - Installation : Document Safeguarding - Protection des documents :  Additional details found in Annex C - Détails supplémentaires figurant à l'annexe C.	
<b>Tendering Process - Méthode d'approvisionnement:</b> Open Bidding - Invitation Ouverte	
<b>Estimated Contract Period - Période estimée du marché:</b> Contract Award Date to September 30, 2024 Date d'attribution du contrat jusqu'au 30 septembre 2024	
<b>Option Period:</b> Yes - Oui	<b>Number of Option Periods:</b> Up to two (2) additional years - Jusqu'à 2 années additionnelles
All enquiries regarding this proposal solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority, <u>no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Proposal Closing Date</u> to allow sufficient time for the Department of Finance to provide responses. Enquiries received after that date may not be responded to prior to the Proposal Closing Date.  Toutes les demandes de renseignements concernant la présente DDP doivent être soumises par écrit au responsable de l'invitation, <u>au plus tard dix (10) jours civils avant la date de clôture du dépôt des propositions</u> afin de donner au ministère des Finances Canada suffisamment de temps pour y donner suite. Si des demandes de renseignements sont reçues après cette date, il se peut qu'on n'y réponde pas avant la date de clôture des propositions. Toutes les réponses qui apportent plus de renseignements sur le besoin seront affichées sur SEAG.	

## NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS

In order to stimulate effective competition and seek best value for Canadian taxpayers, the Department of Finance conducted a search of publicly available information (such as websites and research reports) to help identify potential Bidders with subject matter expertise related to the services required in this Request for Proposal (RFP). In accordance with PSPC Supply Manual Clause 4.75.35 [Contacting Suppliers Directly During the Solicitation Period - Buyandsell.gc.ca](#), contact was made on August 15, 2022 to notify potential bidders of the opportunity and direct them to Government Electronic Tendering Service (GETS). The notice did not include any information that was not already available on GETS.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This Amendment 002 is issued to provide answers to bidders' questions:

<b>Question 11</b>	To satisfy the requirements MT2 (three projects related to digital assets or digital currencies) and MT3 (one project related to stablecoins), Canada has requested that Bidders' provide client reference information. While we have several projects from similar organizations that are highly strategic and relevant to Canada, these projects and our clients are also highly confidential. These projects are directly related to the Statement of Work and can certainly provide the level of detail required such as the summary descriptions, roles and responsibilities, timelines and key deliverables, however the client name and contact information is strictly confidential due to the nature of the work. In order to present that best relevant projects to Canada in these specific areas, would Canada remove the requirement to provide client contact information for MT2 and MT3?
<b>Answer 11</b>	The Department of Finance requires references to evaluate proposals. The Department will be the sole entity provided with the project references / contacts. The Department will only retain the names of the references in order to assess the proposals. The Department will not share the names of references.
<b>Question 12</b>	<p>Considering the limited referenceable contracts and qualifying projects available within Canada that are required to meet the mandatory and rated requirements listed in the RFP, specifically, MT4 and RT5, would the Department consider expanding the definition of Bidder (as defined under section 04 of Standard Instructions 2003) to include Association of Entities (defined below) whereby the Department will have access to global intellectual property offerings including blockchain and digital assets from other OECD countries. Due to the nature and pace of this specific industry, Association of Entities collaborate and operate as a global digital assets team. The restriction to only entities as defined by the current definition of bidder will significantly limit or decrease eligible bidders to very few, likely not more than 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Association of Entities:</b> means separate legal entities within a formally organized professional services network, where all members of the network operate using a common brand, with shared access to intellectual property and talent resources and integrated technology, methodology, strategies, and policies across the network.</li> </ul>

<b>Answer 12</b>	<p>The current definition of “bidder”, under section 04 of Standard Instructions 2003, “Bidder” means the person or entity (or, in the case of a joint venture, the persons or entities) submitting a bid to perform a contract for goods, services or both. It does not include the parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates of the Bidder, or its subcontractors.</p> <p>Joint ventures may respond to bid solicitations in accordance with the applicable conditions contained in the solicitation. The relevant section of standard instructions <a href="#">2003</a> of the SACC Manual permits joint venture bids and provide further details.</p>
<b>Question 13</b>	<p>Could you please advise on the <b>exact date</b> final clarification questions are due in regards to the above noted request for proposals? Does the 10 calendar days requirement include weekends and the upcoming Labour Day holiday? Or is it actually 10 business days?</p>
<b>Answer 13</b>	<p>Calendar Days includes all days of the week Monday through Friday, including weekends and Statutory Holidays. All enquiries regarding this proposal solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority, no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Proposal Closing Date to allow sufficient time for the Department of Finance to provide responses. Enquiries received after that date may not be responded to prior to the Proposal Closing Date. At this moment, the exact date due for clarifications (Q&amp;As) is prior of bid closing date of September 2, 2022.</p>
<b>Question 14</b>	<p><i>In our work globally, we observe that significant legislative and regulatory innovation (particularly as it relates to government and central bank strategy relating to stablecoins and CBDC ) is taking place in non-OECD countries.</i></p> <p><i>Given this, for rated criteria RT4 and RT5, would the crown consider accepting project experience from non-OECD countries so long as these projects relate to work conducted for governments and/or central banks, and that these projects are in excess of the minimum (3) projects required for each category?</i></p>
<b>Answer 14</b>	<p>The Department of Finance will retain the requirement to have conducted analysis for projects in OECD countries.</p>
<b>Question 15</b>	<p><b>A: Question:</b> With respect to satisfying both the Mandatory Technical Criteria and Point Rated Technical Criteria, would the Department of Finance consider: i) academic research experience, ii) publications, and iii) testimony in front of legislative and regulatory authorities, on par with private sector project experience?</p> <p>If yes, could the Department of Finance provide guidance for how to satisfy the required information criteria for each of these types of projects, which are listed in the RFP as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Name, phone number and email address of client;</li> <li>b) Name of the project</li> <li>c) Start and end date of the project;</li> <li>d) The sector covered by the project;</li> <li>e) The industry of the client;</li> <li>f) the key deliverables of the project and a clear description of the work performed.</li> </ol>

	<p><b>B: Question 2:</b> With respect to the minimum duration requirement for reference projects, which has been reduced to three months, would the Department of Finance consider a two year engagement at the same organization but focusing on three different aspects of stablecoins as three different projects if work on each aspect exceeded three months?</p> <p><b>C: Question 3:</b> With respect to the minimum duration requirement for reference projects, which has been reduced to three months, would the Department of Finance consider twenty similar five to ten day projects in combination as satisfying the three month duration requirement?</p>
<b>Answer 15</b>	<p>A: The Department will consider a range of experiences in its assessment, such as academic research or publications, as long as those experiences satisfy the particular requirements and evidence can be provided to the Department to substantiate these experiences. Please provide sufficient details of the work so it may be reviewed by the Department (e.g., article name, ISSN number, name of journal the work is published in, date of publication, co-authors, etc.).</p> <p>B: The Department will consider separate projects undertaken within a single organization, as long as those projects satisfy the particular experience requirements and evidence can be provided to the Department to substantiate these experiences.</p> <p>C: No, the Department will only consider projects which lasted a duration of at least three months.</p>

<b>Question 16</b>	<p><b>We note in section 4.2 Basis of Selection that the bidder with the highest points will be recommended for contract, "provided that the total evaluated price does not exceed the budget available for this requirement". We note in section 4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria that Canada has only requested firm hourly rates, and did not provide the basis or formula that Canada will use to calculate the Total Evaluated Price.</b></p> <p><b>We therefore ask that Canada publish the formula to be used to calculate the Total Evaluated Price from the firm hourly rates submitted by bidders, so that bidders may understand the financial portion of the basis of selection.</b></p>
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<b>Answer 16</b>	<p>When the bid solicitation contains mandatory and point-rated technical evaluation criteria, and the basis of selection will be the bid that received the highest number of points with the evaluated price within the budget. This method is used when seeking the best possible technical solution within a stipulated budget.</p> <p>Highest Rated Responsive Bid within a Stipulated Maximum Budget</p> <p>With this contractor selection method, the responsive bid with the highest technical score within a stipulated maximum budget is recommended for contract award. Bidders are requested to submit bids on the understanding that the requirement must be provided within the specified maximum budget. The requirements are normally defined in general terms to minimize the number of constraints and encourage new ideas and cost effective solutions from the bidders. This selection method is commonly used where the outcome is based on a solution. A broad definition of the requirement and expected results is provided; different solutions or approaches to the requirement are anticipated; considerable flexibility in the performance of the work is expected and required. The objective is to select the contractor with the highest probability of technical success in achieving the goal.</p> <p>Please refer to Sections 4.1.2 Financial Evaluation and 4.2 Basis of Selection of the Request for Proposal (RFP):</p> <p><b>4.1.2 Financial Evaluation</b></p> <p><b>4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria</b></p> <p>Bids submitted in foreign currency will be converted to Canadian currency for evaluation purposes. The rate given by the Bank of Canada in effect on the bid solicitation closing date will be applied as a conversion factor to the bids submitted in foreign currency.</p> <p>For the purpose of the bid solicitation, bidders with an address in Canada are considered Canadian-based bidders and bidders with an address outside of Canada are considered foreign-based bidders.</p>			
	<b>Item</b>	<b>Mandatory Requirement</b>	<b>Compliant (Yes/No)</b>	<b>Reference to Bidder's Proposal</b>
	<b>MF1</b>	<p>The Bidder must provide firm hourly rates for all proposed resources, as outlined in the <b>Table MF1 below</b>. As the exact amount of work is unknown at this time, Bidders must <b>only</b> submit hourly rates for all proposed resources. Determining a level of effort is not required, and will not affect the basis of selection.</p> <p>The Bidder must certify that the proposed rates:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. are not in excess of the lowest price charged to anyone else, including the Bidder's most</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

	favoured customer, for the like quality of the services; and b. does not include an element of profit on the sale in excess of that normally obtained by the Bidder on the sale of services like quality.		
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**Table MF1**

Bidder Resource Name and Title	Year 1 Firm Hourly Rate For period until September 30, 2023	Year 2 Firm Hourly Rate October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024	Year 3 (option) Firm Hourly Rate October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025	Year 4 (option) Firm Hourly Rate October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

**4.2 Basis of Selection**

Highest Rated Within Budget

1. To be declared responsive, a bid must:

- a. comply with all the requirements of the bid solicitation;
- b. meet all mandatory technical evaluation criteria; and
- c. obtain the required minimum of 67 points overall for the technical evaluation criteria which are subject to point rating, with each individual criterion requiring a pass mark of 60% of available points. The rating is performed on a scale of 95 points.

2. Bids not meeting (a) or (b) or (c) will be declared non responsive. The responsive bid with the highest number of points, and having met the minimum pass mark of each individual criterion, will be recommended for award of a contract, provided that the total evaluated price does not exceed the budget available for this requirement.

3. The maximum funding available for the Contract resulting from the bid solicitation is **\$1,000,000 Canadian Dollars** (Applicable Taxes extra). Bids valued in excess of this amount will be considered non-responsive. This disclosure does not commit Canada to pay the maximum funding available.

<b>Question 17</b>	<b>Regarding Page 3, 1.2.1 Summary of RFP, please advise if the Contract Security Program (CSP), Application for Registration (AFR) for Canadian Legal Entities document needs to be included as part of the bid submission, or if this document can be submitted prior to the award of contract.</b>
<b>Answer 17</b>	<p>As of May 2, 2022, organizations bidding on government solicitations with security requirements are required to complete and provide an application for registration (AFR) form as part of their bid response (for example, their proposal). Requirements to hold an organization security screening at bid closing.</p> <p>As a result of these changes, organizations only need to meet security requirements during the bid solicitation process if they are required to access sensitive documents to prepare their bid submission. If access to sensitive information is only required to execute the contract, government procurement officers must give bidders until the date of contract award to obtain their organization security clearance.</p> <p>This puts all potential bidders on the same level playing field and provides a more competitive business environment. It ensures that, regardless of whether or not they have a clearance with the CSP, organizations of all sizes are eligible to bid on government tenders with security requirements.</p> <p>Please refer to Part 6 – Security Requirement of RFP:</p> <p><b>PART 6 - SECURITY REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Security Requirements</b></p> <p>1. Before award of a contract, the following conditions must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Bidder must hold a valid organization security clearance as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(b) the Bidder's proposed individuals requiring access to classified or protected information, assets or sensitive work sites must meet the security requirements as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(c) the Bidder must provide the name of all individuals who will require access to classified or protected information, assets or sensitive work sites;</li> <li>(d) the Bidder's proposed location of work performance and document safeguarding must meet the security requirements as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(e) the Bidder must provide the addresses of proposed sites or premises of work performance and document safeguarding as indicated in Part 3 - Section IV Additional Information.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Bidders are reminded to obtain the required security clearance promptly. Any delay in the award of a contract to allow the successful Bidder to obtain the required clearance will be at the entire discretion of the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>1. For additional information on security requirements, Bidders should refer to the <u><a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html">Contract Security Program</a></u> of Public Works and Government Services Canada (<a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html">http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html</a> ) website.</p>
<b>Question 18</b>	<b>Regarding Page 8, Section II: Financial Bid of RFP, direct deposit is not typically an approved method of payment for law firms. Please advise if the Department of Finance is flexible in regards to methods of electronic payment.</b>
<b>Answer 18</b>	<p>The Department of Finance will only accept the Direct Deposit (Domestic and International) as per Section 7.7.4 Electronic Payment of Invoices – Contract of the RFP:</p> <p><b>7.7.4 Electronic Payment of Invoices – Contract</b></p> <p>The Contractor accepts to be paid using any of the following Electronic Payment Instrument(s):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Direct Deposit (Domestic and International)</p>
<b>Question 19</b>	<b>Regarding Page 16, 4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria of RFP, is our firm free to propose alternative fee arrangements involving non-hourly based billing based on our experience providing similar services, in addition to the hourly rates required? Or are we only allowed to list hourly rates?</b>
<b>Answer 19</b>	<p>No, the Department will only accept firm hourly rates in Table MF1 as per the Section 4.2 Basis of Selection.</p> <p>Highest Rated Responsive Bid within a Stipulated Maximum Budget</p> <p>With this contractor selection method, the responsive bid with the highest technical score within a stipulated maximum budget is recommended for contract award. Bidders are requested to submit bids on the understanding that the requirement must be provided within the specified maximum budget. The requirements are normally defined in general terms to minimize the number of constraints and encourage new ideas and cost effective solutions from the bidders. This selection method is commonly used where the outcome is based on a solution. A broad definition of the requirement and expected results is provided; different solutions or approaches to the requirement are anticipated; considerable flexibility in the performance of the work is expected and required. The objective is to select the contractor with the highest probability of technical success in achieving the goal.</p>



<p><b>Question 20</b></p>	<p><b>Regarding Page 16 of RFP, 4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria, please provide further clarity on this requirement? Due to the unique nature of this mandate, we cannot guarantee hourly rates will be as low as that provided to other government and public sector clients unless the scope of work is directly similar. Is a percentage discount on hourly rates comparable to that provided to similar clients acceptable to meet this requirement?</b></p>										
<p><b>Answer 20</b></p>	<p>When the bid solicitation contains mandatory and point-rated technical evaluation criteria, and the basis of selection will be the bid that received the highest number of points with the evaluated price within the budget. This method is used when seeking the best possible technical solution within a stipulated budget.</p> <p>Highest Rated Responsive Bid within a Stipulated Maximum Budget</p> <p>With this contractor selection method, the responsive bid with the highest technical score within a stipulated maximum budget is recommended for contract award. Bidders are requested to submit bids on the understanding that the requirement must be provided within the specified maximum budget. The requirements are normally defined in general terms to minimize the number of constraints and encourage new ideas and cost effective solutions from the bidders. This selection method is commonly used where the outcome is based on a solution. A broad definition of the requirement and expected results is provided; different solutions or approaches to the requirement are anticipated; considerable flexibility in the performance of the work is expected and required. The objective is to select the contractor with the highest probability of technical success in achieving the goal.</p> <p>Please refer to Sections 4.1.2 Financial Evaluation and 4.2 Basis of Selection of the Request for Proposal (RFP):</p> <p><b>4.1.2 Financial Evaluation</b></p> <p><b>4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria</b></p> <p>Bids submitted in foreign currency will be converted to Canadian currency for evaluation purposes. The rate given by the Bank of Canada in effect on the bid solicitation closing date will be applied as a conversion factor to the bids submitted in foreign currency.</p> <p>For the purpose of the bid solicitation, bidders with an address in Canada are considered Canadian-based bidders and bidders with an address outside of Canada are considered foreign-based bidders.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="391 1488 1463 1793"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="391 1488 492 1551">Item</th> <th data-bbox="492 1488 1000 1551">Mandatory Requirement</th> <th data-bbox="1000 1488 1159 1551">Compliant (Yes/No)</th> <th data-bbox="1159 1488 1463 1551">Reference to Bidder's Proposal</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="391 1612 492 1793"><b>MF1</b></td> <td data-bbox="492 1612 1000 1793">The Bidder must provide firm hourly rates for all proposed resources, as outlined in the <b>Table MF1 below</b>. As the exact amount of work is unknown at this time, Bidders must <b>only</b> submit hourly rates for all proposed resources.</td> <td data-bbox="1000 1612 1159 1793"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No                 </td> <td data-bbox="1159 1612 1463 1793"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Item	Mandatory Requirement	Compliant (Yes/No)	Reference to Bidder's Proposal	<b>MF1</b>	The Bidder must provide firm hourly rates for all proposed resources, as outlined in the <b>Table MF1 below</b> . As the exact amount of work is unknown at this time, Bidders must <b>only</b> submit hourly rates for all proposed resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
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	<p>Determining a level of effort is not required, and will not affect the basis of selection.</p> <p>The Bidder must certify that the proposed rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. are not in excess of the lowest price charged to anyone else, including the Bidder's most favoured customer, for the like quality of the services; and</li> <li>d. does not include an element of profit on the sale in excess of that normally obtained by the Bidder on the sale of services like quality.</li> </ul>		
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	<p>each individual criterion, will be recommended for award of a contract, provided that the total evaluated price does not exceed the budget available for this requirement.</p> <p>5. The maximum funding available for the Contract resulting from the bid solicitation is <b>\$1,000,000 Canadian Dollars</b> (Applicable Taxes extra). Bids valued in excess of this amount will be considered non-responsive. This disclosure does not commit Canada to pay the maximum funding available.</p>
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<b>Question 21</b>	<b>Regarding Hourly rate chart, page 17, 4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria, do you require us to list our standard firm rates or our client special rates?</b>			
<b>Answer 21</b>	<p>When the bid solicitation contains mandatory and point-rated technical evaluation criteria, and the basis of selection will be the bid that received the highest number of points with the evaluated price within the budget. This method is used when seeking the best possible technical solution within a stipulated budget.</p> <p>Highest Rated Responsive Bid within a Stipulated Maximum Budget</p> <p>With this contractor selection method, the responsive bid with the highest technical score within a stipulated maximum budget is recommended for contract award. Bidders are requested to submit bids on the understanding that the requirement must be provided within the specified maximum budget. The requirements are normally defined in general terms to minimize the number of constraints and encourage new ideas and cost effective solutions from the bidders. This selection method is commonly used where the outcome is based on a solution. A broad definition of the requirement and expected results is provided; different solutions or approaches to the requirement are anticipated; considerable flexibility in the performance of the work is expected and required. The objective is to select the contractor with the highest probability of technical success in achieving the goal.</p> <p>Please refer to Sections 4.1.2 Financial Evaluation and 4.2 Basis of Selection of the Request for Proposal (RFP):</p> <p><b>4.1.2 Financial Evaluation</b></p> <p><b>4.1.2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria</b></p> <p>Bids submitted in foreign currency will be converted to Canadian currency for evaluation purposes. The rate given by the Bank of Canada in effect on the bid solicitation closing date will be applied as a conversion factor to the bids submitted in foreign currency.</p> <p>For the purpose of the bid solicitation, bidders with an address in Canada are considered Canadian-based bidders and bidders with an address outside of Canada are considered foreign-based bidders.</p>			
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	<p>critereon requiring a pass mark of 60% of available points. The rating is performed on a scale of 95 points.</p> <p>6. Bids not meeting (a) or (b) or (c) will be declared non responsive. The responsive bid with the highest number of points, and having met the minimum pass mark of each individual criterion, will be recommended for award of a contract, provided that the total evaluated price does not exceed the budget available for this requirement.</p> <p>7. The maximum funding available for the Contract resulting from the bid solicitation is <b>\$1,000,000 Canadian Dollars</b> (Applicable Taxes extra). Bids valued in excess of this amount will be considered non-responsive. This disclosure does not commit Canada to pay the maximum funding available.</p>
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<b>Question 22</b>	<p><b>Regarding Page 18, 5.2 Certifications Precedent to Contract Award and Additional Information of RFP, please advise if the certifications listed in section 5.2 should be included with the bid or provided upon award of contract? If they are required shortly after bid submission, please advise regarding how much time will be given to provide the certifications.</b></p>
<b>Answer 22</b>	<p>Bidders must submit the following duly completed certifications as part of their bid at contract award date as per Part 5 – Certifications and Additional Information of RFP:</p> <p><b>PART 5 – CERTIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b></p> <p>Bidders must provide the required certifications and additional information to be awarded a contract.</p> <p>The certifications provided by Bidders to Canada are subject to verification by Canada at all times. Unless specified otherwise, Canada will declare a bid non-responsive, or will declare a contractor in default if any certification made by the Bidder is found to be untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, during the bid evaluation period or during the contract period.</p> <p>The Contracting Authority will have the right to ask for additional information to verify the Bidder’s certifications. Failure to comply and to cooperate with any request or requirement imposed by the Contracting Authority will render the bid non-responsive or constitute a default under the Contract.</p> <p><b>5.1 Certifications Required with the Bid</b></p> <p><b>Bidders must submit the following duly completed certifications as part of their bid.</b></p> <p><b>5.1.1 Integrity Provisions - Declaration of Convicted Offences</b></p>

	<p>In accordance with the Integrity Provisions of the Standard Instructions, all bidders must provide with their bid, <b>if applicable</b>, the Integrity declaration form available on the <a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/declaration-eng.html">Forms for the Integrity Regime</a> website (<a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/declaration-eng.html">http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/declaration-eng.html</a>), to be given further consideration in the procurement process.</p> <p><b>5.2 Certifications Precedent to Contract Award and Additional Information</b></p> <p>The certifications and additional information listed below should be submitted with the bid but may be submitted afterwards. If any of these required certifications or additional information is not completed and submitted as requested, the Contracting Authority will inform the Bidder of a time frame within which to provide the information. Failure to provide the certifications or the additional information listed below within the time frame specified will render the bid non-responsive.</p> <p><b>5.2.1 Integrity Provisions – Required Documentation</b></p> <p>In accordance with the section titled Information to be provided when bidding, contracting or entering into a real property agreement of the <a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html">Ineligibility and Suspension Policy</a> (<a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html">http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html</a>), the Bidder must provide the required documentation, as applicable, to be given further consideration in the procurement process</p> <p><b>5.2.2 Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity - Bid Certification</b></p> <p>By submitting a bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder, and any of the Bidder's members if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, is not named on the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) for employment equity "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid" list available at the bottom of the page of the <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/employment-equity/federal-contractor-program.html#">Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) - Labour's</a> website (<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/employment-equity/federal-contractor-program.html#">https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/employment-equity/federal-contractor-program.html#</a> ).</p> <p>Canada will have the right to declare a bid non-responsive if the Bidder, or any member of the Bidder if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, appears on the "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid list at the time of contract award.</p> <p>Canada will also have the right to terminate the Contract for default if a Contractor, or any member of the Contractor if the Contractor is a Joint Venture, appears on the "<a href="#">FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid</a>" list during the period of the Contract.</p>
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Question 23	Regarding Page 21, 6.1 Security Requirements of RFP, please advise if the relevant organization security clearances listed in this section should be included with the bid submission, or if verification can be provided upon award of contract.
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	<p><b>If relevant security clearance verification is to be provided shortly after bid submission, please advise regarding how much time will be provided to complete these security requirements.</b></p>
<p><b>Answer 23</b></p>	<p>As of May 2, 2022, organizations bidding on government solicitations with security requirements are required to complete and provide an application for registration (AFR) form as part of their bid response (for example, their proposal). Requirements to hold an organization security screening at bid closing.</p> <p>As a result of these changes, organizations only need to meet security requirements during the bid solicitation process if they are required to access sensitive documents to prepare their bid submission. If access to sensitive information is only required to execute the contract, government procurement officers must give bidders until the date of contract award to obtain their organization security clearance.</p> <p>This puts all potential bidders on the same level playing field and provides a more competitive business environment. It ensures that, regardless of whether or not they have a clearance with the CSP, organizations of all sizes are eligible to bid on government tenders with security requirements.</p> <p>Please refer to Part 6 – Security Requirement of RFP:</p> <p><b>PART 6 - SECURITY REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p><b>6.1 Security Requirements</b></p> <p>1. <b>Before award of a contract</b>, the following conditions must be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the Bidder must hold a valid organization security clearance as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(b) the Bidder's proposed individuals requiring access to classified or protected information, assets or sensitive work sites must meet the security requirements as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(c) the Bidder must provide the name of all individuals who will require access to classified or protected information, assets or sensitive work sites;</li> <li>(d) the Bidder's proposed location of work performance and document safeguarding must meet the security requirements as indicated in Part 7 - Resulting Contract Clauses;</li> <li>(e) the Bidder must provide the addresses of proposed sites or premises of work performance and document safeguarding as indicated in Part 3 - Section IV Additional Information.</li> </ul> <p>2. Bidders are reminded to obtain the required security clearance promptly. Any delay in the award of a contract to allow the successful Bidder to obtain</p>

	<p>the required clearance will be at the entire discretion of the Contracting Authority.</p> <p>2. For additional information on security requirements, Bidders should refer to the <a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html">Contract Security Program</a> of Public Works and Government Services Canada (<a href="http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html">http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/introduction-eng.html</a> ) website.</p>
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<b>Question 24</b>	<b>Regarding Page 23, 7.1.2.4 Minimum Work Guarantee - All the Work - Task Authorizations of RFP, please advise regarding how many firms will be appointed as Contractors (if more than one is chosen) to complete the work and if more than one will be contracted, how work will be divided among the Contractors?</b>
<b>Answer 24</b>	The potential contract be awarded to one (1) bidder based on the Basis of Selection of the RFP.

<b>Question 25</b>	<b>Regarding Page 1, Request for Proposal Amendment, Questions and Answers, please advise on the exact date and time that enquiries are due. It is not clear whether the “10 calendar days prior” includes weekends, the upcoming Labour Day holiday in Canada, and the bid submission day itself.</b>
<b>Answer 25</b>	Calendar Days includes all days of the week Monday through Friday, including weekends and Statutory Holidays. All enquiries regarding this proposal solicitation must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority, no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the Proposal Closing Date to allow sufficient time for the Department of Finance to provide responses. Enquiries received after that date may not be responded to prior to the Proposal Closing Date. At this moment, the exact date due for clarifications (Q&As) is prior of bid closing date of September 2, 2022 at 2 p.m. EDT.

<b>Question 26</b>	<b>Regarding Page 2, Request for Proposal Amendment, Questions and Answers, how many organizations were contacted as potential Bidders for this work?</b>
<b>Answer 26</b>	The number of organizations who were contacted is not required to provide a responsive bid and such information cannot be provided because it could prejudice the competitive bidding process.

<b>Question 27</b>	<b>Regarding Page 4, Request for Proposal Amendment, Questions and Answers, What types of firms have been contacted to complete this work? Will preference be given to professional services and technology consulting firms over law firms given that legal services are not required as per Answer 9?</b>
<b>Answer 27</b>	The Department contacted organizations which demonstrated subject matter expertise related to the services required in this Request for Proposal (RFP). No preference will be given to organizations based on their field of work.