



## NOTICE

This document has been examined by the Technical Authority for content and confirmed that it has no references to controlled goods.

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)  
SEARCH AND RESCUE SLEEPING BAG SYSTEM  
FOR  
THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)  
FOR THE  
SEARCH AND RESCUE SLEEPING BAG SYSTEM**

**1.0 Scope**

**1.1 Purpose** – The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to inform industry that the Department of National Defence (DND) intends to post a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Sleeping Bag System (SBS) for Search and Rescue Technicians (SAR Techs). The intention of the future RFP is for stock replenishment of the new system. In preparation for the RFP, this RFI seeks to obtain feedback from industry on the attached Draft Search and Rescue Sleeping Bag System for the Department of National Defence as well as responses to other specific DND questions posed herein. Further, interested vendors are requested to provide feedback on the proposed high level procurement strategy details associated with this requirement.

**1.2 Nature of Request for Information** – This Request for Information (RFI) is not a bid solicitation. This RFI will not result in the award of any contract; therefore, respondents should not earmark stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. Nor will this RFI result in the creation of any source list; therefore, whether or not any potential respondent replies to this RFI will not preclude that respondent from participating in any future procurement. Also, the procurement of any of the goods and services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this RFI. This RFI is simply intended to solicit information from industry with respect to the contents of this RFI.

**1.3 Background** – SAR Techs are land and sea survival experts who specialize in rescue techniques (including Arctic rescue), parachuting, diving, mountain climbing and helicopter rescue. The nature of the SAR trade leaves little time to re-pack gear to adjust for a wide variety of severe inclement weather, requiring equipment that is flexible.

**1.4 Use Scenarios**

**1.4.1** Environments of operational use are domestic, so limited to the Canadian climate; however, there conditions can range from the following, often from one day to the next:

- i. Summer conditions (including near wildfires) reaching as high as 45°C, requiring minimal thermal protection during rest;
- ii. Temperate conditions requiring moderate thermal protection during rest;
- iii. Cold-wet weather conditions as low as -20°C requiring thermal and moisture protection during rest; and
- iv. Severe cold conditions, ranging from -20°C to as low as -50°C, typically between -30°C and -40°C (without consideration for wind), requiring extreme thermal protection during rest.

**1.4.2** In severe cold conditions, users are assumed to have prioritized shelter in accordance with the survival pattern, which could be as basic as a tarp and bivouac bag over the sleeping bag system. In these conditions, -40°C can reach a “wind chill” of -60°C. If users have established a wind-resistant shelter, conditions can fluctuate from -40°C to +10°C, sometimes with swings of 30°C within a single night’s rest. Conditions within the shelter are humid, as the warming air becomes saturated from exhaled moisture and melting snow. The user may also be experiencing a range of environmental injuries, including frostbite and hypothermia.

**1.4.3** SAR operations include rapid transportation and extraction, but can also include periods of temporary shelter with or without casualties in severe inclement weather. Unlike Army operations, the SAR-SBS is not expected to maintain performance throughout a lengthy cycle of use and storage with little time to dry the system (i.e. putting a damp sleeping bag into a compression sack). Instead, the user is expected to be sheltering in stable conditions, making use of available resources to keep their equipment dry and functional.

## **1.5 Limitations of Requirements**

**1.5.1** ISO 23537-1 and ASTM F1720 are the only existing global standards for the measurement of whole-product sleeping bag thermal resistance testing. Neither standard has a scope that includes temperatures below -20°C, nor is either tested with a sweating manikin, resulting in insufficient evaluation of sleep systems relative to their real-world scenarios. As such, the requirements for this SBS cannot be exclusively defined using thermal resistance. The use scenarios described in section 1.4 are representative of the true requirements for the sleep system – and shall be tested by live users in these conditions – supplemented by the individual requirements described below.

## **2.0 References**

**2.1** The following publications form part of this document to the extent specified herein. Unless specified otherwise, the effective dates of the publications will be those in effect on the date of the Solicitation. The following publications are not supplied by the Department of National Defence.

**American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)  
100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania, 19428, U.S.A**

ASTM F1720-17	Standard Test Method for Measuring Thermal Insulation of Sleeping Bags Using a Heated Manikin
ASTM F1853-11 (18)	Standard Test Method for Measuring Sleeping Bag Packing Volume
ASTM F1955-22	Standard Test Method for Flammability of Sleeping Bags

**ISO International Standards – International Organization for Standardization  
ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401  
1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland**

ISO 23537-1:2022	Requirements for sleeping bags – Part 1: Thermal, mass and dimensional requirements for sleeping bags designed for limit temperatures of -20°C and higher
ISO 23537-2:2016	Requirements for sleeping bags – Part 2: Fabric and material properties

## **2.2 Definitions**

**2.2.1 Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS)** – An item of supply that:

- a) Is of a type customarily used by the general public or by non-governmental entities for purposes other than governmental purposes, and has been sold, leased, or licensed to the general public in substantial quantity (at least 200 units);
- b) Sold in the commercial marketplace; and
- c) Offered to the Government, under a contract or subcontract at any tier, without modification or with minor modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace.

**2.2.2 Military-off-the-Shelf (MOTS) – Any item of supply that is:**

- a) Of a type used by armed forces or law enforcement for operational purposes, and has been sold under contract to a governmental agency in substantial quantity (at least 200 units);
- b) Was developed exclusively at private expense and sold in substantial quantities, on a competitive basis, to local governments or to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partner country military or law enforcement organizations; and
- c) Offered to the Government, under a contract or subcontract at any tier, without modification or with minor modification, in the same form in which it is sold in the commercial marketplace.

**2.2.3 Minor Modifications – Changes of a type customarily available in the commercial marketplace made to an item of supply. For the purposes of this document “minor modifications” shall be limited to the following:**

- a) Colouration;
- b) Removal or modification of graphics and labelling;
- c) Selection of insulation materials (limited to fills of similar type and construction);
- d) Increase or decrease of insulation quantity, thickness, or weight;
- e) Pattern modifications to accommodate insulation changes;
- f) Sizing;
- g) Slide fastener components;
- h) Adding a slide fastener secondary fastener;
- i) Adding an internal pocket; and
- j) Reinforcement of high-wear areas.

**2.3.4 Acronyms and Initialisms**

ASTM	“American Society for Testing and Materials”
CLO	Unit of measure for thermal insulation
COTS	“Commercial-off-the-Shelf”
DSSPM	“Directorate Soldier Systems Program Management”
GPS	“Global Positioning System”
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IV	“Intravenous” (i.e. fluids injected into the bloodstream)
MOTS	“Military-off-the-Shelf”
NATO	“North Atlantic Treaty Organization”
NSN	“NATO Stock Number”
SAR	“Search and Rescue”
SBS	“Sleeping Bag System”

**3. REQUIREMENTS**

**3.1 Concept of System**

**3.1.1** The SAR-SBS must be a high-performance sleeping bag system.

**3.1.2** Due to the operational conditions described in section 1.4, the SAR-SBS must be suitable for a range of environments and highly transportable.

**3.1.3** Due to its use in severe cold described in section 1.4.2, the SAR-SBS must provide extreme thermal protection when used as a full system, and have excellent moisture management in these conditions.

**3.1.4** In order to reliably meet the operational requirements of section 3.2, the SAR-SBS must be Commercial-off-the-Shelf (COTS) or Military-off-the-Shelf (MOTS) as per the definitions of section 2.2.

**3.1.5** The SAR-SBS must consist of 7 components:

- i. Overbag, synthetic;
- ii. Inner bag, down;
- iii. Hygiene liner;
- iv. Compression sack, for overbag;
- v. Compression sack, for inner bag;
- vi. Storage bag, for system; and
- vii. Repair kit.

**3.1.6** The combination of sleeping bags must be balanced to provide a combined thermal protection specified below in section 3.2.3. This combination should consist of:

- a) Inner bag rated for  $-40^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and
- b) Overbag rated for  $0^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**3.1.7** The textiles used in the Overbag, Inner bag, and Hygiene liner must be durable and promote moisture management, as per their use scenarios and intended layering.

## **3.2 General Requirements**

**3.2.1** The SAR-SBS must be comfortable, allowing for restful sleep in a range of extreme conditions, whether on one's back or side, depending on personal preference.

**3.2.2** The Overbag, Inner bag, and Hygiene liner must function together as a sleep system, allowing the user to scale their thermal protection up or down as required by the environment.

**3.2.3** Combined, the Overbag, Inner bag, and Hygiene liner must have a thermal resistance of at least  $1.76 \text{ K}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$  when tested to either ASTM F1720 or ISO 23537-1, and should be as high as possible.

**3.2.4** The mass of the Inner bag, Outer bag, and Hygiene liner (in the largest size) combined must not exceed 3.70 kg.

**3.2.5** The Overbag and Inner bag colours:

- a) Must be solid and consistent across the outer shells;
- b) Must not be white or camouflage;
- c) Must be available in earth-tone, dull green, or grey; and
- d) Should also be available in bright colours, preferably bright orange or light blue.

**3.2.6** The designs of each sleeping bag must include a slide fastener with the following features:

- i. Non-locking;
- ii. Includes a secondary fastener at the neck opening;
- iii. Reaches from the neck opening to knee height or longer;
- iv. Insulated with a draft tube to prevent heat loss through the slide fastener;
- v. Allows for the venting of excess heat from the bottom of the slide fastener;
- vi. Usable while wearing thick handwear and no visibility;
- vii. Designed in such a way as to mitigate the impacts of icing; and
- viii. Opens on the same side (left or right) of the user for both bags.

**3.2.7** The SAR-SBS must be available in 2 sizes (referred to as “Medium” and “Large” unless specified otherwise) covering:

- i. Users 5’5” to 6’4” in height; and
- ii. Users with a chest circumferences of 40” to 48”.

**3.2.8** The SAR-SBS must be available in special sizes upon request.

### **3.3 Overbag Requirements**

**3.3.1** The Overbag (with hygiene liner) must have a thermal resistance of at least  $0.76 \text{ K}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$  when tested to either ASTM F1720 or ISO 23537-1, and should be as high as  $1.01 \text{ K}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$  (approximately 6.6 CLO with a  $-5^\circ\text{C}$  limit temperature).

**3.3.2** The Overbag and Hygiene liner volume combined when compressed must be no larger than 8.1 liters, when tested as per ASTM F1853.

**3.3.3** The Overbag synthetic insulation must be:

- i. Inherently hydrophobic, delivering consistent thermal performance when dry or wet (down treated to be hydrophobic has not been found to meet this requirement);
- ii. Integrated into the construction in such a way as to prevent migration of fibers;
- iii. Resist the growth of mold and fungus from exposure to damp;
- iv. Have excellent compression recovery, allowing for rapid lofting of the SAR-SBS; and
- v. Be 100% recycled.

**3.3.4** If the Overbag includes an integrated hood, the hood design must be a loose fit with the ability to cinch around the user’s head, or to leave flat and used as pillow for the user’s exposed head if preferred.

**3.3.5** The Overbag must be sized properly to fit over the Inner bag without compressing the insulation, while fitting closely enough to maximize thermal performance.

**3.3.6** The Overbag materials must be compliant to ISO 23537-2.

**3.3.7** The Overbag must conform to the requirements of ASTM F1955 - Standard Test Method for Flammability of Sleeping Bags.

### **3.4 Inner bag requirements**

**3.4.1** The Inner bag (with hygiene liner) must have a thermal resistance of at least  $1.56 \text{ K}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$  when tested to either ASTM F1720 or ISO 23537-1 (with the hygiene liner and without the overbag); the thermal resistance should be as high as possible, preferably above  $1.79 \text{ K}\cdot\text{m}^2\cdot\text{W}^{-1}$ .

**3.4.2** The Inner bag volume when compressed must be no larger than 17.5 liters, when tested as per ASTM F1853.

**3.4.3** The inner bag insulation:

- i. Must be down;
- ii. Must be at least 700 fill power (after any treatments are applied);
- iii. Should be treated to be hydrophobic;
- iv. Must be approximately equal in the chest and back sections, with no more than 10% difference between front and back fill weights; and
- iv. Must be integrated in such a way as to prevent down migration lengthwise (from head to toe), and around (from front to back), without creating dead spaces between sections of down (i.e. no stitched-through or box baffling).

- 3.4.4** The Inner bag design must include:
- a) An internal pocket at chest height with a slide fastener for the storage of equipment that must be kept warm, such as: large smartphone or small tablet, smaller narcotics packages, headlamp, or lighter. The design of the pocket must not compromise the performance of the sleeping bag, including the insulation, baffling, and closure;
  - b) An integrated hood, designed to cinch around the user's head, or to leave flat and used as pillow for the user's exposed head if preferred.
  - c) A neck baffle that minimizes heat loss and forms around the neck without creating pressure;
  - d) A footbox designed in such a way as to minimise the air space around the feet (and auxiliary equipment listed in section 3.4.5) without causing any pressure points where the user's feet compress the insulation (ex. "trapezoidal footbox" design); and
  - e) A differential cut.

**3.4.5** The cut of the Inner bag must be large enough (particularly when used with the Overbag) that a user of the maximum recommended proportions for that size of sleeping bag can rest comfortably with the following equipment to prevent freezing of their contents:

- i. 1 x 1L Nalgene bottle;
- ii. 1 x 1L IV bags; and
- iii. Small polymer case (6" x 4" x 7") or electronic equipment (1 of):
  - ProPaq LT;
  - Iridium Sat Phone;
  - Rino GPS (650 or 755); or
  - Motorola APX radio (6000 or 8000).

**3.4.6** The Inner bag materials must be compliant to ISO 23537-2.

**3.4.7** The Inner Bag must conform to the requirements of ASTM F1955 - Standard Test Method for Flammability of Sleeping Bags.

### **3.5 Hygiene liner requirements**

**3.5.1** The Hygiene liner must be ideal for next-to-skin use, enhancing the performance of the SAR-SBS in terms of:

- i. Thermal resistance;
- ii. Comfort;
- iii. Moisture management;
- iv. Cleanliness (from skin oils); and
- v. Odour management.

**3.5.2** The Hygiene liner must fit into the compression sack of the synthetic overbag with the synthetic overbag.

### **3.6 Compression Sack Requirements**

**3.6.1** The SAR-SBS must be supplied with two compression sacks:

- a) One compression sack sized to accommodate the Overbag and Hygiene liner; and
- b) One compression sack sized to accommodate the Overbag, Inner bag, and Hygiene liner.

**3.6.2** The compression sacks must be reasonably sized to accommodate their respective sleeping bag(s) without excessive force from the user.

**3.6.3** Each compression sack must:

- i. Be made of 100% nylon textile, with a polyurethane coating;
- ii. Have sealed seams to improve water resistance;
- iii. Have a drawstring closure at one end, covered with a lid;
- iv. Have 4 compression straps attaching to the lid;
- v. Have a closed end with a carrying handle; and
- vi. Have a quick-release mechanism to facilitate removal.

### **3.7 Storage Bag Requirements**

**3.7.1** The SAR-SBS must include a bag for storing all components in a relaxed, uncompressed state.

**3.7.2** The Storage bag must:

- i. Be extremely breathable;
- ii. Be designed to protect the SAR-SBS from dirt and insects; and
- ii. Have a drawstring closure at one end to securely contain the components.

### **3.8 Compatibility**

**3.8.1** The SAR-SBS must be compatible with the following equipment:

- i. Inflatable sleeping pad, 8 R-value, 8 to 10 cm thick, with external pump sack (no NSN);
- ii. Foam sleeping mat (NSN 8465-20-008-0463);
- iii. Bivouac bag, medium, without slide fastener (NSN 8465-21-905-7981);
- iv. Thermal blanket (NSN 20-002-4943 or 20-012-7245).
- v. Tarp or ground sheet (no NSN).

### **3.9 Service Life**

**3.9.1** The SAR-SBS minimum lifespan must be 3 years of frequent use, or 10 years of sporadic use.

**3.8.2** The SAR-SBS minimum shelf life must be 5 years, with no special treatment or degradation of performance.

**3.8.3** The SAR-SBS should be able to withstand the following use scenarios without suffering a significant loss in performance:

- a) Stored in the in-service compression sack in a dry state for 12 months;
- b) Used in the field for 7 consecutive days in temperatures below 0°C with no chance to dry.

**3.8.4** The SAR-SBS should be washable by commercial, front-loading washing machine.

**3.8.5** The SAR-SBS must include a repair kit for small tears and other field-repairs.

### **3.9 Labelling requirements**

**3.9.1** Each component must include a marking label that:

- i. Is permanently attached;
- ii. Clearly legible;
- iii. Has indelible markings;
- iv. Has high contrast markings to the label;
- v. Be bilingual (French and English); and
- vi. Not interfere with comfort.



**3.9.2** The Inner bag, Overbag, and Hygiene liner must each have a marking label that contains the following information:

- i. NATO Stock Number;
- ii. Size;
- iii. Contract Number;
- iv. Month and Year of manufacture;
- v. Fibre content;
- vi. Care instructions;
- vii. Temperature rating for complete system and for each insulated component;
- viii. Maintenance instructions (as applicable);
- ix. Product warnings (as applicable);
- x. ASTM F1955 labelling requirements (as applicable); and
- xi. A line suitable for user identification.

**3.9.3** Each compression sack and the Storage bag must each have a marking label that contains the following information:

- i. NATO Stock Number;
- ii. Corresponding SAR-SBS components;
- iii. Contract Number;
- iv. Month and Year of manufacture;
- v. Maintenance instructions (as applicable);
- vi. Product warnings (as applicable); and
- vii. A line suitable for user identification.

**4. DRAFT TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS**

**4.1** Requested Feedback – As described above, DND would appreciate industry feedback regarding the above technical document. Please note that although the specification lists all applicable references, DND has only included, in this RFI, a representative sample of these references for review in section 2.1.

**4.2 Questions** - In addition to reviewing the Draft SAR-Tech SBS Documents and providing feedback on the specified materials and components, RFI respondents are requested to respond to the following questions:

4.3.1	Requirements	Response	
4.3.1.1	<b>Sleeping Bag Requirements</b>		
4.3.1.1.1	Do the RFI respondents and/or sleeping bag suppliers feel the technical requirements identified in section 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1, and 3.4.2 are reasonable and achievable?	<b>Yes (identify the values)</b>	<b>No (indicate which ones and explain)</b>
4.3.1.1.2	3.2.3, 3.3.1, 3.4.1 Thermal resistance		
4.3.1.1.3	3.2.4 Mass		
4.3.1.1.4	3.3.2, 3.4.2 Volume under load		
4.3.1.2	<b>Material Requirements</b>		
4.3.1.2.1	Do the RFI respondents and/or materials suppliers feel they are capable of meeting the technical requirements identified in sections 3.3.3, 3.4.3 and 3.3.6, 3.4.6?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No (indicate which ones and identify how they do not meet)</b>
4.3.1.2.2	What material would the RFI respondents use to meet the requirements identified in section 3.5 (Hygiene liner)?		

<b>4.3.1.3</b>	<b>Additional Requirements</b>		
4.3.1.3.1	Are there any requirements the RFI respondents feel are not reasonable or achievable?	<b>Yes (identify which ones and how they could be improved)</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>4.3.1.4</b>	<b>Experience</b>		
4.3.1.4.1	Does the RFI respondent have experience manufacturing inclement weather clothing/systems for Canadian or NATO military, police, or emergency services?	<b>Yes (indicate which group)</b>	<b>No</b>
4.3.1.4.2	Does the RFI respondent have experience manufacturing inclement weather clothing/systems for commercial use?	<b>Yes (indicate scale of commercial sales)</b>	<b>No</b>
4.3.1.4.3	Does the RFI respondent have the capability of manufacturing the SAR-SBS in the estimated quantities and estimated timelines identified in this RFI?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No (describe your capability)</b>
4.3.1.4.4	Does the RFI respondent have the capability of manufacturing the SAR-SBS in Canada?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No (identify where manufacturing is done)</b>
<b>4.3.1.5</b>	<b>Timelines</b>		
4.3.1.5.1	Is the RFI respondent able to deliver 3 Pre-Award Sample (PAS) of the SAR-SBS to the specified requirements during a 3 month bid period?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No (identify required timeline)</b>
4.3.1.5.2	If a contract is awarded, how much time would be needed to deliver one Pre-Production Sample (PPS) SAR-SBS to DND?		
4.3.1.5.3	If a contract were awarded and a PPS is approved by DND, how much time would be needed to start delivery?		
4.3.1.5.4	If a contract were awarded and once deliveries commence, what is the estimated weekly production rate of the following:		
	Overbag, synthetic;		
	Inner bag, down;		
	Hygiene liner;		
	Compression sack, for overbag;		
	Compression sack, for inner bag;		
	Storage bag, for system; and Repair kit.		

## 5. SOLICITATION PROCESS

**5.1 Proposed Procurement Strategy** – It is anticipated that a future procurement for the SAR Tech SBS would be run as a competitive process.

**5.2 Industrial Technological and Benefit Policy and Canadian Content Policy** - As the International Trade Agreements do not apply to this commodity, Canada reserves the right to leverage any future Search and Rescue Sleeping Bag System RFP for economic benefit to Canada, either through the application of the Industrial Extrepolicies that encourage industrial development in Canada.

Greater detail on the ITB Policy may be obtained from the Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada website:

<http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/086.nsf/eng/home>

Greater detail on the CCP may be obtained from the Buyansell.gc.ca website:

<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/supply-manual/annex/3/6>

**5.4 Cost Estimates** – In order to assist DND with achieving its business planning requirements, respondents are requested to provide a non-binding, indicative unit cost(s) in their native business currency in accordance with the items detailed in Section 4.0 (excluding shipping, packaging, and taxes). Interested suppliers are also requested to state any relevant information or assumptions that were made regarding the development of their estimate and identify any areas that could be potential cost risks.

## 6. ESTIMATED FIRM QUANTITY

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Cost Estimate
1	SAR Sleeping Bag System (Size Medium)	100	
2	SAR Sleeping Bag System (Size Large)	100	

## 7. ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

Procurement Activity	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Time Period Allotted for Activity (days)
Request for Information	September 2022	30
Request for Proposal (RFP) posting on Buy & Sell	Oct 2022	30
RFP closes (Pre-Award Sample(s) and Bid Documents due)	January 2023	90
Award of full Contract	May 2023	120
Pre-production Sample Submission	September 2023	120
Estimated First Deliveries of Firm Quantity	December 2023	90

## 8. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

**8.1** At this time, PWGSC and DND have not scheduled any formal industry engagement activities associated with this RFI. There may be further engagement with industry regarding the Search and Rescue Sleeping Bag System requirement, which could involve formalized industry engagement activities. Further, if interested respondents are inclined to meet in the National Capital Region, with government representatives involved with this RFI, it is requested that they indicate this interest to the RFI authority identified at para 9.10.

## 9. SUPPLIER RESPONSES

- 9.1 Instructions** – Respondents are requested to submit a written response to the RFI Authority identified at para 9.10 by the closing date of this RFI. It is requested that the following information be provided:
- 9.1.1** Respondent's name, contact information and return address;
- 9.1.2** Indication of interest in a future procurement of the Search and Rescue Sleeping Bag System, either as a prime contractor, sub-contractor or materials or components supplier;
- 9.2 Format** – Written responses must be submitted in two (2) hard copies only. Responses may be submitted in either official language.
- 9.3 Delivery Address** – Responses are not considered bids, however, responses shall be sent by email to the [annick.parent@forces.gc.ca](mailto:annick.parent@forces.gc.ca)
- 9.4 Use** – Responses will not be formally evaluated, however, they may be used by DND to develop the Specification, Statement of Work and or Bid Evaluation Plan for a future RFP. All responses received by the RFI closing date will be reviewed by DND. DND may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date. Written responses to this RFI will not be returned.
- 9.5 Costs** – The Government of Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred responding to this RFI.
- 9.6 Parameters** – Respondents are reminded that this RFI is not a Request for Proposal. In that regard, respondents should feel free to include any comments or concerns with their responses. Canada reserves the right to seek clarification from a respondent on information provided in response to this RFI, either by telephone, in writing, or in person.
- 9.7 Confidentiality** – The confidentiality of each Respondent will be maintained. Respondents are requested to clearly identify portions of their response that are proprietary. Items that are identified as proprietary will be treated as such except where Canada determines that the item is not of a proprietary nature.
- 9.8 Enquiries** – Enquiries regarding this RFI must be directed to the RFI authority identified at para 9.10.
- 9.9** Enquiries received after 15 days before the closing date of this RFI may not be answered. Because this is not a bid solicitation, the Government of Canada will not necessarily respond to all enquiries in writing, nor circulate all answers to industry. However, in the event that answers are circulated, Enquirers should clearly identify portions of their questions that are proprietary in nature. Canada may edit the questions or request that the Enquirer do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question is eliminated, and the enquiry can be circulated to industry.
- 9.10 RFI Authority** – Department of National Defence is responsible for the management of the RFI process. The DND contact and RFI Authority for this RFI is:

Annick Parent  
Procurement Officer  
DLP 3-2-3

Dept of National Defence  
101 Colonel By Dr.  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0K2  
E-Mail address [annick.parent@forces.gc.ca](mailto:annick.parent@forces.gc.ca)