

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE

AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA – No. 01B68-22-0095

The Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has a requirement for an Electronic media monitoring distribution is a critical function in support of AAFC's efforts to identify and track current and emerging public issues and trends as reported in the media.

The purpose of this Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) is to signal the government's intention to award a contract for these services to:

Densan Consultants Ltd.
611-250 City Centre Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K1R 6K7

Before awarding the contract, however, the government would like to provide other suppliers with the opportunity to demonstrate that they are capable of satisfying the requirements set out in this Notice, by submitting a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period.

If other potential suppliers submit a statement of capabilities during the 15 calendar day posting period that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the government will proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

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

Project Title:

Electronic media monitoring services.

Background:

Electronic media monitoring distribution is a critical function in support of AAFC's efforts to identify and track current and emerging public issues and trends as reported in the media.

For several years, PAB media monitoring officers have had access to NewsLink to monitor Canadian and international media effectively and to produce daily documents such as daily clippings. Densan Consultants Ltd. Created NewsLink, a system designed for electronic media monitoring distribution widely used throughout the federal government.

Densan Consultants was previously contracted for this work as they are the only provider who can continue the maintenance since they developed/created NewsLink.

Objective:

For Densan Consultants to provide technical support, system maintenance and on-going enhancements to NewsLink five days a week (from Monday to Friday, 7:30 to 17:30).

Scope of Work:

Agreement to include:

- Any new features that Densan develops (eg. improved search, email alerts, support for wireless devices, etc.) would be provided at no extra charge to AAFC as part of this maintenance contract.
- Free software upgrades during the maintenance period;
- The hosting of AAFC's media monitoring system on a Densan server
- Unlimited telephone support between the hours of 07:30 and 17:00 Monday to Friday (holidays excluded)
- Unlimited on site & telephone support for all NewsLink Software Programs
- Web page redesign, custom features and server migration
- Free upgrades to all new versions of the NewsLink Software Programs that have been purchased by the Client;
- Free problem resolution modifications (bug fixes) to the NewsLink software modules;
- Discounts for purchase of new NewsLink products as and when they become available.
- Free participation in all NewsLink User Group activities for the designated Client contact(s);

Deliverables And Schedule:

Densan will provide AAFC-PAB with maintenance and support for Newslink as described in the scope of work (five days a week, with a back-up person able to access all software and all versions).

Location of Work:

The location of work is the contractor's site and there is no travel required so no travel will be reimbursed under this contract.

Minimum Essential Qualifications:

To fulfill the requirements of the contract, any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it has the capacity to provide the same information that is listed above.

Government of Canada Regulations Exception:

The Treasury Board's Government Contract Regulations, Part 10.2.1 Section 6 states there are four exceptions that permit the contracting authority to set aside the requirement to solicit bids. The exception for related to this ACAN includes:

- d. "only one supplier person or firm is capable of performing the contract."

Limited Tendering Provisions In Accordance With The Trade Agreements:

The North American Free Trade Agreement, the World Trade Organization - Agreement on Government Procurement, and the Agreement on Internal Trade permit the contracting authority to set aside the requirement to solicit bids under the following condition:

- b) "For works of art, reasons connected with protecting patents, copyrights, other exclusive rights, or proprietary information or where there is an absence for technical reasons, the goods or services can be supplied by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists"

Justification for the Pre-Selected Supplier:

AAFC owns a perpetual licence for Densan NewsLink product. Densan Consultants is the only authorized provider of NewsLink support services.

Densan NewsLink has developed and maintained AAFC's clippings service and, as such, is the only provider who can continue that maintenance. The service provided allows AAFC to produce press clipping packages on a daily and as-needed basis throughout the year.

Contract Period:

The contract period is from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023 with three (3) additional one-year options.

Estimate of Costs:

It is intended to award a service contract to the supplier for an amount of

\$56,400.00 +HST (\$7,332) = \$63,732.00

Fiscal year cost breakdown for the multi-year procurement:

Year one: \$14,100.00 + HST

Option year one: \$14,100.00 + HST

Option year two: \$14,100.00 + HST

Option year three: \$14,100.00 + HST

Project Authority:

James Voldock

Manager, Media Services

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

1341 Baseline Road,

Ottawa, ON K1A 0C5

Tel: 613 462-8463

Email Address: James.Voldock@AGR.GC.CA

Contracting Authority:

Kyle Harrington

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Professional Services Contracting Unit

1341 Baseline Road

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5

Email: kyle.harrington@agr.gc.ca

Suppliers Right to Submit a 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: **Friday December 16th 2022 at 12:00 PM** Inquiries and Statements of Capabilities are to be delivered via email to:

Email: kyle.harrington@agr.gc.ca

Requisition Number: ACAN no. 01B68-21-0095

Statements of Capabilities must be sent on or before the closing date. Statement of Capabilities received on or before the closing date will be considered solely for the purpose of deciding whether or not to conduct a more extensive tendering process. Information provided will be used by the Crown for technical evaluation purposes only with respect to a decision to proceed to a further competitive process. Suppliers that have submitted a Statement of Capabilities will be notified in writing of AAFC's decision to proceed to award the contract without a further additional tendering process.

Should you have any questions concerning this requirement, contact the Contracting Officer identified above stating the AAFC Solicitation Number (01B68-21-0095) and the closing date of the ACAN.

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement. Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.