

Solicitation 1000234629/A for Simultaneous Interpretation Services

Questions and Answers #1 to #4

Question #1

The SRCL states that proposed resources must hold a Secret clearance, and the RFP also states that security requirements must be met at bid closing.

- Is there any flexibility to allow Bidders to propose non-cleared resources, provided that they initiate the process for those resources to become cleared?

Answer #1

No, there is no flexibility in regards to secret clearances for the interpreters. Resources must possess a secret security clearance at the time of bid closing.

Question #2

The SOW states that the platform to be used will be “Zoom or other”. Please consider that while Zoom has an integrated platform to allow for remote interpretation, other platforms do not.

- While it is possible for suppliers to provide the necessary platform to allow for remote interpretation when necessary, there is an associated cost. Will Health Canada consider these costs and how should Bidders express them in their response?

Answer #2

Health Canada will NOT cover these costs as the interpreter(s) must be on-site for these meetings.

Question #3

The Basis of Payment asks for per diem rates per resource. Please further explain how interpreters would be paid for a meeting, keeping in mind the following industry standards:

- Interpreters are usually paid a minimum of two (2) hours for any assignment.
- Interpreters usually work in pairs, meaning that two (2) interpreters are assigned to each request.

Answer #3

The following clause below (Definition of a Day/Proration) was omitted in error, it will added to the basis of payment via the attached RFP amendment #1 to Solicitation 1000234629/A for Simultaneous Interpretation Services

Definition of a Day/Proration

“ For the purpose of this Contract, a day is defined as 7.5 hours of work, exclusive of meal breaks. Payment will be made for days actually worked, with no provision for annual leave, statutory holidays and sick leave. If time worked is more or less than a day, the all inclusive fixed daily rate must be prorated to reflect the actual time worked.”

- i. All proposed personnel must be available to work outside normal office hours during the duration of the Contract.*
- ii. No overtime charges will be authorized under the Contract. All time worked will be compensated according to paragraph above.*

Currently, our requirement is for only one interpreter (French to English); however, in the future, there might be a need for two interpreters.

Question #4

We have observed that this proposal subscribes CETA's conditions. We are currently making the necessary arrangements for its registration in Canada; however, this bid will be expiring before we have our company registered and we would like to confirm beforehand that we can submit our proposal as a foreign company based on the terms established by the CETA. We would greatly appreciate if you could also advise if we need to provide any extra specific information /certifications as a foreign contractor.

Answer #4

That is correct the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) is in effect for this solicitation. You will be able to bid if you are a foreign company that falls under any of the listed trade agreements (including CETA) listed in the solicitation online. No additional information is required besides what is listed in the solicitation.

The interpreters will be required to be on site.