

**REQUEST FOR STANDING OFFER (RFSO)
1000030656-001**

FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF

**Data Science Services on Issues Related to Criminal
Justice System Involvement**

FOR THE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CANADA

AMENDMENT 001

Standing Offer Authority:

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PART 1: Questions and Answers

Question 1	Can you please indicate if there is a minimum pass score on the rated criteria? There is no minimum score indicated in the RFP grid but there is a reference about a minimum score at page 45 paragraph 5. <i>“Each resource proposed must attain the required minimum score for the point rated criteria. If the minimum score for any proposed resource is less than what is required, the proposed resource will be found to be non-compliant.”</i> Can you please clarify?
Answer 1	There is no minimum pass score required for the rated criteria. Points will only be considered should more than 10 offerers pass the mandatory requirements. That would be when Section 4.2.1 would apply. The 10 offers with the highest combined rating of Technical Merit (70%) and Price (30%) will be considered responsive and awarded standing offers. The experience from the rated criteria may also be considered when selecting the best fit Offeror to award a call-up to as per 7.6 Call-up Procedures. Please see Part 2 of this document, which amends ATTACHMENT 2 TO ANNEX E – SRF ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES to remove the mention of minimum points being required.
Question 2	For MO2 (the other resource mandatory grid) the projects need to be relevant to the competency areas <u>AND</u> the areas of application. We ask that this mandatory criterion be modified to be more in line with RO2, RO6, RO7 to read as “the competency areas <u>OR</u> the areas of application”. The rationale for this request is that some strong Data Scientists that have encountered meet the credentials requirements, also meet the areas of competency but have not worked in the Government and do not have the projects requiring social and justice related microdata experience as well as stats can microdata experience (areas of application). The candidates we have talked to (still rare finds!) for the “Other Resource” qualification, have typically been engaged in the private sector or academia and don’t have the StatsCan microdata or the social microdata experience and therefore do not comply to MO2. Can you please consider changing the criterion to “the competency areas <u>OR</u> the areas of application”?
Answer 2	Please note that for the purposes of this solicitation, microdata has been defined as “Individual responses or observations, before statistical analysis has been applied. Sometimes referred to as “raw” data. Source: https://libguides.uwinnipeg.ca/c.php?g=124941&p=5103383 . Social Data has also been defined as “Numeric data related to human welfare and development, including employment, education, housing, child care, income assistance, health care and others.” Only experience in one of the two areas of application: 1.) Statistics Canada microdata OR 2) Canadian social or criminal justice sector microdata is required under MO2. Experience in Government specific data or in Statistics Canada data only is not a requirement. There will be no changes to MO5 as a result of Question 2
Question 3	Again for the Other Resource grids, RO5, for the same reasons as indicated in Question 2, can you please remove this criterion from the “Other Resource” grid to ensure that Canada receives multiple candidates including ones with private sector experience?
Answer 3	As stated in the response to Question 2, only experience in <u>one</u> of the two areas of application: 1.) Statistics Canada microdata OR 2) Canadian social or criminal justice sector microdata is required. Experience in Government specific data or in Statistics Canada data only is not a requirement. There will be no changes to RO5 as a result of Question 3.
Question 4	For MO2, the Other Resource grid, there is a note indicating that projects conducted as part of a degree program will not be considered. We want to point out that some candidates with a PhD relevant to Data Science have undertaken complex and very involved projects for the doctorate thesis, which consumed multiple years of intensive work. This excludes very valuable experience from the project count. Please consider accepting a successful doctorate thesis directly relevant to Data Science as a project that can be presented for MO2 and/or applicable rated criteria?
Answer 4	There will be no changes to MO2 as a result of Question 4. Resources with a PhD can provide details under rated requirements (RS1 or R01) for additional points.

Question 5	For RO8 Community Experience: This criterion is listed for both the Senior Resource and the Other Resource. We ask that it should be removed from the Other Resource grid. The rationale is that the other resource will likely have less years of experience in the field, and may not have had the opportunity to work with the populations listed in the criterion; however, as they will be working in tandem with the Senior Resource, they can benefit from the Senior Resource's experience in this area and will be able to apply their solid technical expertise in Data Science to this type of data sets. Can you please remove RO8 from the Other Resource's grid?
Answer 5	RO8 Community Experience is not a mandatory criterion. A resource without community experience may be proposed for either category, but will not score any points for RO8. There will be no changes to RO8 as a result of Question 5.

Question 6	For RO7, in the Other Resource grid, Project Experience funded by Federal Granting Agencies issued by one of the three listed federal research agencies (SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC): Experienced Data Scientists with a PhD and significant research in the field, who have completed data science services similar to the services required in the Statement of Work for private sector projects have transferable skills and the expertise to analyze data to solve business problems that are common/similar to the projects funded by the agencies listed (SSHRC, CIHR, NSERC). Please provide points for private sector projects where the resource provided similar data sciences services that are related to the Competency Area or Area of Application.
Answer 6	RO7 is not a mandatory criterion, bidders without government experience but with experience in both the competency area and area of application are encouraged to bid should they meet the mandatory criteria. There will be no changes to RO7 as a result of Question 6.

PART 2: Amendment to RFSO

Amend the following within the RFSO 100030656-001 document:

1. ATTACHMENT 2 TO ANNEX E – SRF ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES,

DELETE:

The entire **ATTACHMENT 2 TO ANNEX E – SRF ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES**

AND REPLACE WITH:

1. Where a requirement for a specific call-up is identified, a Service Request Form (SRF) as attached at Annex E will be provided to the Offeror along with the associated Statement of Work. Once the SRF is received, in accordance with Article 7.8. Call-up Procedures, the Offeror must submit to the Project Authority a response to supply the requested Resource Category/ies based on the information identified in the SRF.
2. *For each additional resource (a resource not already named in the Standing Offer) the Offeror must supply a Curriculum Vitae, the requested security clearance information and must complete the Response Tables at Attachment 3 to Annex E. The Curriculum Vitae must demonstrate that each proposed individual meets the qualification requirements described. With respect to the proposed resources:*
 - (i) Proposed resources may be employees of the Offeror or employees of a subcontractor, or these individuals may be independent contractors to whom the Offeror would subcontract a portion of the Work.
 - (ii) For educational requirements for a particular degree, designation or certificate, Canada will only consider educational programmes that were successfully completed by the resource before the date the SRF was first issued to the Offeror.
 - (iii) For requirements relating to professional designation or membership, the resource must have the required designation or membership by the time of SRF issuance and must continue, where applicable, to be a member in good standing of the profession or membership throughout the assessment period and the period for which the resource's services are required, as specified in resulting call-up.
 - (iv) For work experience, Canada will not consider experience gained as part of an educational programme, except for experience gained through a formal co-operative programme at a post-secondary institution.
 - (v) For any requirements that specify a particular time period (e.g., 2 years) of work experience, Canada will disregard any information about the experience if the *Curriculum Vitae* does not include the relevant dates (month and year) for the experience claimed (i.e., the start date and end date). Canada will evaluate only the duration that the resource actually worked on a project or projects (from his or her start date to end date), instead of the overall start and end date of a project or a combination of projects in which a resource has participated.

- (vi) A *Curriculum Vitae* must not simply indicate the title of the individual's position, but must demonstrate that the resource has the required work experience by explaining the responsibilities and work performed by the individual while in that position. Only listing experience without providing any supporting data to describe responsibilities, duties and relevance to the requirement, or reusing the same wording as the SRF, will not be considered "demonstrated" for the purposes of the assessment.
3. The qualifications and experience of the proposed resources will be assessed against the requirements set out in Attachment 3 to Annex D to determine each proposed resource's compliance with the mandatory criteria. Canada may request proof of successful completion of formal training, as well as reference information. Canada may conduct reference checks to verify the accuracy of the information provided. If reference checks are done, they will be conducted in writing by e-mail (unless the contact at the reference is only available by telephone). Canada will not consider a mandatory criterion met unless the response is received within 5 working days. On the third working day after sending out the e-mails, if Canada has not received a response, Canada will notify the Offeror by e-mail, to allow the Offeror to contact its reference directly to ensure that it responds to Canada within 5 working days. Wherever information provided by a reference differs from the information supplied by the Offeror, the information supplied by the reference will be the information assessed. A mandatory criteria will not be considered as met if the reference customer is not a customer of the Offeror itself (for example, the customer cannot be the customer of an affiliate of the Offeror). Nor will a mandatory criteria considered as met if the customer is itself an affiliate or other entity that does not deal at arm's length with the Offeror. Crown references will be accepted.
 4. During the assessment of the resources proposed, should the references for two or more resources required under that SRF either be unavailable or fail to substantiate the required qualifications of the proposed resources to perform the required services, the Standing Offer Authority may deem the Offeror non-responsive.
 5. Once the response has been accepted by the Project Authority, the proposed individual(s) will be added to the Standing Offer and the formal call-up for the Work will be issued. The Offeror must not commence work until a validly issued call-up has been received, and any work performed in its absence is done at the Offeror's own risk