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SOLICITATION AMENDMENT

MODIFICATION DE L'INVITATION

The referenced document is hereby revised; unless otherwise indicated, all other terms and conditions of the Solicitation remain the same.

Ce document est par la présente révisé; sauf indication contraire, les modalités de l'invitation demeurent les mêmes.

Comments - Commentaires

Vendor/Firm Name and Address

Raison sociale et adresse du
fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur

Issuing Office - Bureau de distribution

Information Security and Electronic Warfare Major
Proj/Division de la sécurité de l'information et de la
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K1A 0S5

Title - Sujet Information Technology Infrastructu Infrastructure de technologie de l'information à l'appui du commandement et du c	
Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation W8474-18IT01/C	Amendment No. - N° modif. 003
Client Reference No. - N° de référence du client W8474-18IT01	Date 2024-01-10
GETS Reference No. - N° de référence de SEAG PW-\$\$QE-061-29203	
File No. - N° de dossier 061qe.W8474-18IT01	CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME
Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin at - à 02:00 PM Eastern Standard Time EST on - le 2024-02-07 Heure Normale du l'Est HNE	
F.O.B. - F.A.B.	
Plant-Usine: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresser toutes questions à: Abela, Aaron	Buyer Id - Id de l'acheteur 061qe
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone () - ()	FAX No. - N° de FAX () -
Destination - of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination - des biens, services et construction: Specified Herein	

Instructions: See Herein

Instructions: Voir aux présentes

Delivery Required - Livraison exigée	Delivery Offered - Livraison proposée
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Telephone No. - N° de téléphone Facsimile No. - N° de télécopieur	
Name and title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/ de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature	Date

ITQ AMENDMENT 003

ITQ Amendment No. 003 is being issued to address the following:

- A) Publish Questions and Answers submitted by Respondents during the ITQ publication.**
- B) Amend ANNEX G – Evaluation Criteria, Table 1, M19**

A) Questions and Answers

Question Number	Question	Answer
003	<p>Reference PART 3, Section 3.1, Sub-section Section I: Technical Response – Customer Reference Contact Information, where Canada requests that a Respondent provide customer references when one was not first provided in the response, two (2) working days is insufficient time to be notified and then provide the Reference Service/Capability Information form. Many reference organizations have their own internal review and approval processes.</p> <p>Would Canada please consider extending the period to at least four (4) weeks as resource/reference availability may be limited?</p>	<p>Canada does not agree to an extension of time for providing references since the Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) advises industry to prepare this information. The 2 working days should be sufficient time to provide information that was part of original submission.</p>
004	<p>Reference Annex G – Evaluation Criteria, Section 2.0, Table 1 – Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria M19 & M21: In the "Information required with the response" section of these requirements, there is a mention of the word 'examples'.</p> <p>Please confirm that this word does not mean 'customer examples' and is instead referring to the service description and technical documentation.</p>	<p>Canada does not intend to be provided examples of other client(s)/customer examples, rather we are looking for examples of capabilities through the service description and technical documentation.</p>
005	<p>The scope of the funded engagement includes "demonstrations and proof of concepts" as mentioned in the Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) document. Could Canada confirm that these technical demonstrations will be performed within DND/CAF funded cloud environments/subscriptions during the delivery of the Funded Engagement (FE)? Currently there is no provision to provide estimates for any non-labor component that might be potentially needed by DND/CAF for the demos and proof of concepts.</p>	<p>The Task Authorization work for the Funded Engagement (FE) has not yet been determined. However, DND's intent is not to pay for subscriptions for as part of a demonstration or proof of concept. Should a need arise for a subscription during the FE, it would be determined in the Task Authorization and would be covered under the Material provision of the Annex B – Basis of Payment.</p>

<p>006</p>	<p>We are trying to determine the point in the procurement process where we should request Reliability or Secret security clearances for the individuals to be involved in delivering the Funded Engagement (FE). This ITQ clearly provides justification to obtain Facility Security Clearance (FSC) and Document Safeguarding Capability (DSC) at this time, but does not provide anything we can see that justifies (via one of the 12 scenarios under the Contract Security Program (CSP)) applying for Secret or Reliability clearance for individuals.</p> <p>Questions: 1) When do we apply for Secret or Reliability for individuals who will be involved in the Funded Engagement? 2) If we need to apply now or during this Invitation to Qualify (ITQ), what "scenario" do we use as per the "Scenarios that are accepted as justification to process personnel security screening requests" in the CSP https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/esc-src/nouvelles-news/modif-enquete-changes-screening-eng.html#s2-4</p>	<p>1) As per the Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) at PART 6, Section 6.1 – Security Requirements (e), Suppliers that do not meet the anticipated security requirements [...] Should begin the clearance process early” and that “Qualified Suppliers wishing to be issued a Post-ITQ engagement contract must hold the security clearance at contract award”. Therefore, PSPC strongly advise interested suppliers to initiate the process as soon as possible.</p> <p>2) Scenario 1. The Contract Security Program (CSP) can be contacted at the following email address: tpsgc.ssiinscription-issregistration.pwgsc@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca</p>
<p>007</p>	<p>Reference Annex G – Evaluation Criteria, Section 2.0, Table 1 – Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria M19. The focus is on the ability of suppliers to provide Attribute Based Access Control (ABAC) to secure a variety of resources, such as devices, applications, folders or files. XACML (eXtensible Access Control Markup Language) is one of many possible configuration options to meet the requirement for ABAC but there are other configuration options such as NGAC (Next-Generation Access Control).</p> <p>Since suppliers could address M19 requirements in a variety of ways, it is requested that Canada update this question to enable suppliers to define how they meet the ABAC requirement. As such, it is requested that Canada amend this question to include NGAC.</p>	<p>Reference Section B below for further information.</p>

<p>008</p>	<p>Reference PART 7, Section 7.9.6 – Discretionary Audit Clause C0100C - Discretionary Audit - Commercial Goods and/or Services. This Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions (SACC) clause is to be applied in non-competitive scenarios (for example, where only one bidder is invited to bid or responds to an invitation to tender). The ITI in Sp of C2 procurement is being conducted in a competitive environment (see SACC 2003) to qualify suppliers. Canada will also require qualified suppliers to further compete for authorized Task Authorizations. That Canada has asked for pricing but has determined it will not evaluate the pricing does not result in this process being considered non-competitive.</p> <p>Additionally, Respondents are being asked to provide pricing against an unknown scope of work in an environment where the dates of potential contract award remain largely unknown. Please remove clause C0100C Discretionary Audit – Commercial Goods and/or Services.</p>	<p>The Discretionary Audit Clause C0100C at PART 7, Section 7.9.6 is included because the issuing of Task Authorizations (TA) under the FE contracts will not be a competitive process. This is further explained at PART 7, Section 7.1.2 – Task Authorization Process where the same draft TA consisting of the same scope of work will be distributed to each Funded Engagement (FE) Contractor, and issued to each as long as other applicable criteria are met. This process will be repeated for each subsequent series of TA issued by Canada. Qualified Suppliers will not compete with each other for authorized Task Authorizations.</p>
<p>009</p>	<p>Reference PART 1 – GENERAL INFORMATION, Section 1.2 Summary, which states “The purpose of this Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) is to qualify Suppliers that have the ability to provide a secure, hyperscale Cloud capability as part of the Information Technology Infrastructure in Support of Command and Control (ITI in Sp of C2) Project (the Project) to proceed to the subsequent phases of the procurement process.” Additionally, in Solicitation number W8474-18IT01/B Amendment 000, Part 1 Introduction, Section 4. PROPOSED ENGAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT PROCESS Table 1, the Crown has outlined Phases 2 and 3 of the procurement process inclusive of Draft RFP(s) and RFP(s).</p> <p>Since this ITQ is clearly requesting responses from Suppliers with secure, hyperscale Cloud capability, and to avoid ambiguity, can the Crown please confirm that it will run separate solicitations for Systems Integrators to build C2 capabilities that will be supported on the resulting ITI in Sp of C2 cloud as part of the Phase 3 Request for Proposal(s) or at a later date?</p>	<p>Canada’s intention is to award a single contract solution for the whole requirement and, therefore, there will not be separate or multiple solicitations.</p>

010	<p>Reference Annex G – Evaluation Criteria, Section 2.0, Table 1. The table in 2.0 Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria states "Respondents Response. Cross reference where the supporting documentation is located in the response. (Respondents to insert page number)" and "[Note: Use of published commercial and marketing documentation is acceptable.]".</p> <p>To provide the required published supporting documentation would take hundreds of pages as attachments to the response. Is the intent that the supporting documentation required be provided including links to published information rather than attaching it to the submission?</p>	<p>Demonstrations must be provided through one of the following medians (a) CPC ePost Connect electronic format, (b) disc, or (c) USB.</p> <p>Hyperlinked/ internet linked information is not acceptable to include as part of a submission, as it can be altered at any time, including after the time of submission.</p>
011	<p>For many of the mandatory requirements, the following is stated:</p> <p>Respondent must provide documentation [Note: Use of published commercial and marketing documentation is acceptable.]</p> <p>Please confirm that we are allowed to provide links to web pages (URLs) to our online documentation rather than including the PDF versions of the documentation via CPC Connect.</p>	Reference Question Number 010 above.
012	<p>Reference Basis of Payment Part 3.1, Section III Annex B, which requests that all respondents provide a completed Annex B with labour rates and categories, although this information is not being evaluated as part of the qualification process, and may not be used as the basis of payment for the Funded Engagement (FE) contracts given the proposed levelling strategy for contract pricing.</p> <p>Please change the requirement so that only successfully qualified vendors are required to provide a completed Annex B prior to participating in the FE process.</p>	The preparation and completion of Annex B – Basis of Payment is required in accordance with Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) submission. The intent is to leverage the ITQ from a timeline perspective and stay within the scheduled Funded Engagement (FE) award date planned.
013	<p>It is noted that under the tab named "Description of Labor Categories" in Annex B – Basis of Payment, that the Crown has not provided any labour category, description, or specialities that include demonstrated experience with the development, building, deployment and operating of hyperscale cloud infrastructure, nor has the Crown provided any labour category, description, or specialities that include demonstrated experience with the development, building, deployment and operation of commercially available cloud services. While in Section 1.2 summary paragraph 1, it states that "The purpose of this ITQ is to qualify Suppliers that have the ability to provide a secure, hyperscale Cloud</p>	<p>A. The described Labour Categories in Annex B – Basis of Payment are broad in scope and designed to be all-inclusive for the experience and skill set required to meet the expected scope of work for Task Authorizations to be issued under the Funded Engagement Contracts. These have been reviewed and will not be modified.</p> <p>B. To ensure fairness Respondents are required to use the labour categories as per Annex B – Basis of Payment. Canada can</p>

	<p>capability...", while in paragraph 3 it states that "The main objective of the FE (Funded Engagement) is to support the finalization of the Statement of Requirements (SOR), system specifications, and other relevant documentation. The FE which will involve interaction between the Department of National Defence (DND), Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and Qualified Suppliers, is intended as a vehicle to exchange comprehensive information. The intent of the FE contract(s) is to further consult and obtain information from industry so Canada can further define its requirement into a non-proprietary solution that meets DND capability requirements." It is presumed that DND/CAF wish to consult and obtain information from industry labour resources that bring a depth of experience and knowledge on how to develop, build, deploy and operate hyperscale cloud infrastructure and sustain the delivery of commercial cloud services globally.</p> <p>A. We request that the Crown remove all Labour Categories from ANNEX B as they do not describe the skills and specialities required to meet the intent and main objective of the FE.</p> <p>B. Furthermore, we request that the Crown allow the respondents to submit their unique hyperscale cloud infrastructure and cloud services labour categories and supporting basis of payment labour rates.</p> <p>C. Finally, we request that the respondents only be required to submit labour categories after they have successfully qualified.</p>	<p>not accept supplier specific labour categories and associated labour rates.</p> <p>C. The preparation and completion of Annex B – Basis of Payment is required in accordance with Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) submission.</p>
014	<p>It is noted that under the tab named "Description of Labor Categories" in Annex B – Basis of payment, that the Crown has not provided any labour category, description, or specialities that include demonstrated experience with the development, building, deployment and operating of SECRET-level hyperscale cloud infrastructure, nor has the Crown provided any labour category, description, or specialities that include demonstrated experience with the development, building, deployment and operation of SECRET-level commercially available cloud services. While in Section 1.3 Background paragraph 1, it states that "The DND CAF has a requirement to implement a secure, integrated Secret-level Information Technology (IT) infrastructure...". It is presumed that during the Funded Engagements (FE) that DND/CAF wish to consult and obtain information from industry labour resources that bring a depth of experience and knowledge on how to develop, build, deploy and operate SECRET-level hyperscale cloud infrastructure</p>	<p>Reference Question Number 012 above.</p>

	<p>and sustain the delivery of SECRET-level commercial cloud services globally.</p> <p>A. We request that the Crown remove all Labour Categories from ANNEX B as they do not describe the experience, skills and specialities required to meet the intent and main objective of the FE.</p> <p>B. Furthermore, we request that the Crown allow the respondents to submit their unique SECRET-level hyperscale cloud infrastructure and cloud services labour categories, and supporting basis of payment labour rates.</p> <p>C. Finally, we request that the respondents only be required to submit labour categories after they have successfully qualified.</p>	
<p>015</p>	<p>Reference Part 3 – Response Preparation Instructions, s. 3.1, Section III: Additional Information, Annex B – Basis of Payment requires that Respondents must complete and submit Annex B – Basis of Payment, which must identify Team members, Categories of Labour and Hourly Labour Rates in Canadian funds. The rates provided in Annex “B” are identified as the rates that will be paid by Canada for future Work specified in Authorized Task Authorizations for Funded Engagement (FE) Contracts. Annex B rates are also identified at ss 7.1.2 Task Authorization, (f) FE Contractor’s Response to Draft Task Authorization. However, ss 7.1.2 Task Authorization (b) Allocation of Task Authorizations (TA) provides for an averaging exercise to calculate for Unreasonably High and Low Quotes (ss. IX) based upon the (presumed) total price of each TA response. A respondent with an unreasonably high quote will be offered a TA with a Limitation of Expenditure based upon an averaging process of all respondents’ TA response quotes (excluding an unreasonably low quote).</p> <p>As the scope of potential work and the potential contract award time frame is not yet known, it is extremely difficult for Respondents to properly define team members, labour categories and labour rates at the ITQ stage. The benefits of competition amongst Qualified Suppliers will not be reduced if pricing is provided at the time of bidding for FE Contracts, and Qualified Suppliers will be better positioned to evaluate the work scope and determine appropriate team members, labour categories and associated rates. Canada will be able to achieve better pricing certainty if it seeks pricing from Qualified Suppliers when scopes of work are known at the FE stage.</p>	<p>A. The preparation and completion of Annex B – Basis of Payment is required in accordance with Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) submission. The intent is to leverage the ITQ from a timeline perspective and stay within the scheduled Funded Engagement (FE) award date planned.</p> <p>B. As stated in Section 7.1.2 Task Authorization, Sub-section (b)(IX), in the event that a FE Contractor is more than 20% higher than the average quoted price, that is otherwise compliant, the FE Contractor will be offered a TA with a limitation of expenditure that is not greater than the unreasonably high quote benchmark of 20% above the average quoted price. As this will be considered the limitation of expenditure for the TA, FE Contractor’s will not be reimbursed for any costs beyond this limit.</p>

	<p>A. Could Canada please remove the requirement for a completed Annex B to be provided at this time.</p> <p>B. Further, with respect to the limitation of expenditure being applied to an unreasonably high quote, how does Canada reconcile that approach with the equal division of funding for FE Contracts noted at Part 1, ss. 1.2 Summary? Is the Respondent with the unreasonably high quote subject to a further cost constraint than other Respondents?</p>	
016	We understand that the Reference Service/Capability Information Form is only necessary for Mandatory requirements M2 and M7. Can someone please confirm that we have understood this correctly?	The Reference Service/Capability Information Form is required as part of your answer to Mandatories 1, 2 and 7 (M1, M2, M7) as stated in the Final Invitation to Qualify document, Mandatory Technical Evaluation Criteria section.
017	Since the due date was extended to Feb 7, does the Question closing period also end 10 days before the new due date or remains as originally planned (i.e. 10 days before Jan 10, 2024)?	The ten (10) calendar days still applies. As per section 2.4, inquiries must be submitted no later than ten (10) ten calendar days before the scheduled ITQ closing date, which has since been modified.

B) At ANNEX G – Evaluation Criteria, Table 1, M19

Delete in its entirety;

Insert:

M19	The Respondent's existing cloud services must provide attribute-based access control (ABAC) in accordance with NIST publications 800-162 and 800-63 with standard services and (b) providing attribute-based access control to each of the following: i. devices; ii. applications; and iii. files and folders providing the following minimum capabilities: (a) supporting 25,000 end users;"	The Respondent must provide service description and technical documentation substantiating how they meet this criterion. The examples must demonstrate compliance with the entirety of the criterion (including sub-criteria a, and b). [Note: Use of published commercial and marketing documentation is acceptable.]	
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ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED