

**TREASURY BOARD OF CANADA SECRETARIAT
ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTIFICATION (ACAN)**

Description of Work

The Financial Analysis (FA) group of the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat (TBS) provides economic and financial market data/analytics data to support the development of its capital market forecasts and to undertake internal economic modelling and risk analysis. FA requires access to the same economic and financial market data and analytical tools as those used by PSPIB and other private sector asset managers.

The FA group of TBS requires an analytics software application to provide access to integrated economic and financial market database and application software. This software application will be used by TBS to facilitate the analysis of Canadian, US and Global economic and capital market conditions and will feed data directly into FA's forecasting models supporting the sector's ability to consult and advise the PSPIB, the Office of the Chief Actuary, and other partners and to provide necessary funding/risk management advice to the President of the Treasury Board. The Vendor's database/software application must provide data feeds, charting capabilities, analytical tools, and Excel-based integrations to facilitate the proposed work.

FA currently has a contractor, Macrobond, that fulfills all these requirements with ease. Macrobond provides all the required data to feed our forecasting models, while providing Excel-based integrations.

Requirements

The Financial Analysis (FA) group has a requirement for an integrated economic and financial market database and analytics software application.

The scope includes:

Data Series

- Software must provide current and historical data records covering, at a minimum, Balance of Payments, Commodity Price, Construction, Demographic, Equity Market, Public Finance, Labour Market, Fixed Income, National Account, Interest Rate, Exchange Rate, Money, Banking, Credit, Production and Trade data. Data updates must be processed within 10 minutes of all official public data releases and data coverage must be global (e.g. Canada, US, UK, G7, G20, Emerging Markets, etc).

Excel Add-In

- Software must include an add-in capable of delivering data feeds into Excel at rapid speeds without the need for specialized programming. Software must also allow users to alter data feed properties and to refresh data feeds from directly within Excel.

Data Conversions

- Software must include automatic data conversion functionality, permitting the alteration of data by frequency and currency without the need for specialized programming.
- The software must include "missing value" handling based on some form of linear and/or cubic spline interpolation techniques.

Data Charting

- Software must include advanced charting capabilities similar to what is available in Microsoft Excel.
- Software must permit the direct upload of data series from the user's computer.

Third Party Distribution Feeds

- Software must have the ability to draw in and distribute data feeds from other third party vendors, if licensed by TBS, including but not limited to MSCI Enhanced Module data feeds, JPMorgan Bond Index data feeds, Merrill Lynch Bond Index data feeds, Consensus Economics data feeds, and Bloomberg data feeds.

Trade Agreements and Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements

The requirement is subject to the provisions of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP), the Canada Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA), the Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA), the Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA), the Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CColFTA), the Canada-Panama Free Trade Agreement (CPanFTA), the Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement (CHFTA), the Canada-Ukraine Free Trade Agreement (CUFTA), the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Canada- United Kingdom Trade Continuity Agreement (Canada- UKTCA) and the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA).

Justification

FA requires access to the same economic and financial market data and analytical tools as those used by the PSPIB and other private sector asset managers, FA has determined that Macrobond is the only source capable of successfully providing this information based on data availability, data delivery, system usability, analytical capabilities, charting functionality, and support functions. Macrobond is the only product capable of successfully meeting the requirements of this project. In addition, Macrobond is the only product providing all the required data to feed our forecasting models, while providing Excel-based integrations or analytical capabilities.

Limited tendering of this requirement is consistent with the provisions of the Government Contracts Regulations (GCRs) Section 6, where only one firm is capable of performing the contract and additionally, as per the Canadian Free Trade Agreement Article 506 Section 12, where only one supplier is able to meet the requirements of a procurement; as per the Canada Korea Free Trade Agreement (CKFTA) Article 1016 Section 2(b), where, for works of art, or for reasons connected with the protection of patents, copyrights or other exclusive rights, or proprietary information or where there is an absence of competition for technical reasons, the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists; and as per Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Canada-Peru Free Trade Agreement Article 1409 Section 1. (b)(ii), where the goods or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute goods or services exist for any of the following reasons: the protection of patents, copyrights or other exclusive rights and as per World Trade Organization-Agreement on Government Procurement (WTO-AGP) section XV.1(b), when, for works of art or for reasons connected with protection of exclusive rights, such as patents or copyrights, or in the absence of competition for technical reasons, the products or services can be supplied only by a particular supplier and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists.

Intellectual Property

The intellectual property created during the course of the contract will vest with the contractor. In other words, the ownership of the application and data will vest with the contractor.

Contract Period

The integrated economic and financial market database and analytics software application is required for three years (3) initially with an additional two (2) 1-year option periods.

Estimated Value

The estimated value of the initial contract is \$193,101.82 + Ontario HST tax, an additional \$74,929.98+ Ontario HST tax for Option year 1 and additional \$80,924.38 + Ontario HST tax for Option year 2.

Submission of 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.

Minimum Essential Requirements

Any interested supplier must demonstrate by way of a statement of capabilities that it meets the following requirements:

1. The contractor must demonstrate that the software, and associated add-ins, are fully functional in a Microsoft Office environment, with all components installed, with no additional middleware or infrastructure services required.

Further, the software application and data feed delivery functionality must not require a database install and all loaded data must be savable and shareable to a corporate account within the software application allowing licensed users in TBS to access and work on the same saved files.

2. The contractor must demonstrate that the software will provide current and historical data feeds covering, at a minimum Canadian, U.S. International Developed and Emerging Market:

- Balance of Payments data
- Business Statistics
- Commodity and Energy index data
- Construction and Real Estate data
- Demographic data
- ESG data
- Financial Account data
- Forecasts
- Foreign Finance data
- Funds
- Government and Public Finance data
- Income and Earnings data
- Interest Rate and Exchange Rate data
- Labour Market data
- Money, Banking and Credit data
- National Account data
- Prices
- Production data

- Survey and Leading Indicator data
- Trade data
- Transportation and Communications data
- S&P/TSX, S&P500, S&P600 price, total return, market cap, EPS, dividend yield and P/E data
- MSCI Index Data Prices (included) + (enhanced if licensed)
- J.P. Morgan corporate bond data:

3. The contractor must demonstrate that the software is easy to use and navigate via its organizational structure and click sequences and must have accurate and advanced search functionality to help users find and retrieve data feeds. It must also easily integrate with Microsoft Excel and must include an add-in capable of delivering data feeds into Excel at rapid speeds without the need for specialized programming (but must still be executable using VBA). Software must also allow users to alter data feed properties and to refresh data feeds from directly within Excel without hang, without causing Excel to crash, and that once refreshed, the user does not need to be in the software application for the loaded data to be visible and usable. The Excel add-in must be easy to configure for data delivery with data feeds that are updated and processed within 10 minutes of their official public data release.

4. The contractor must demonstrate that the software includes automatic data conversion functionality, permitting the alteration of data by frequency and currency without the need for specialized programming. The contractor must also demonstrate that the software includes “missing value” handling based on some form of linear and/or cubic spline interpolation techniques.

5. The contractor must demonstrate that the Software includes advanced charting capabilities superior to what is available in Microsoft Excel. The contractor must also demonstrate the software permits the direct upload of data series from the user’s computer into the software.

6. The contractor must demonstrate that they have third-party distribution agreements in-place and that the software has the ability to draw in and distribute data feeds from third-party vendors, if licensed by TBS, including but not limited to MSCI Enhanced Module data feeds, JPMorgan Bond Index data feeds, Merrill Lynch Bond Index data feeds, Consensus Economics data feeds, and Bloomberg data feeds.

7. The contractor must demonstrate that it has sufficient technical support staff available to work with TBS IT to address system issues, if they arise, to minimize TBS downtime.

8 The contractor must demonstrate that it has responsive customer support systems in place to address TBS questions, if required.

9. The contractor must demonstrate that the proposed software is robust and reliable and that it has been in use for over 5 years and that it has been successfully installed and utilized, in a minimum of five 5 global organizations of at least 1,000 employees, in the past 5 years.

10. The contractor must provide access to the following Canadian/US data feeds:

- Automobile Sales
- Retail Sales / Chain Store Sales
- E-Commerce Retail Sales
- Retail Inventories
- Consumer Sentiment / Consumer Confidence indicators
- Existing Home Sales / New Home Sales
- New Housing Price Indicators
- Housing Affordability Indicators

- Vacancy Rates
 - Apartments
 - Offices
 - Industrial
- Motor Vehicle Sales
- Book-to-Bill Ratio / Unfilled Orders-to-Shipments
- Aggregate Stock-to-Sales Ratios
- Business Inventories
- Wholesale Inventories
- Durable Goods Orders
- Factory Orders
- Housing Permits & Starts
- Industrial Production Index & Industrial Price Index
- Capacity Utilization
 - Output Gap (e.g. Extended Multivariate Filter)
 - Utilization Rate (Non-Farm Goods)
 - Capacity Utilization Rate (Manufacturing)
- PMI Manufacturing Index Measures
- Personal Savings Rates
- Federal Expenditures and Deficit
- National Debt-to-GDP
- Federal Tax Rates
 - Personal
 - Corporate
- Copper Prices
- London Metal Exchange Inventories
- Gold Prices
- Oil Inventories & Oil Prices
- Natural Gas Prices
- Beige Book Data
- Crack Spreads
- Business Outlook Survey Results
- Business Confidence Indexes
- Credit Condition Measures
 - Loosening/Tightening Credit Conditions (Senior Loan Officer Surveys)
- Key Interest Rates
 - Overnight Rate
 - Federal Funds Rate
- Gross Domestic Product & GDP per Capita
- Money Supply
 - M1 & M2 Money Supply
- Indexes of Leading Indicators
- Baker-Hughes Rig Counts
- Corporate Profits
 - Net Margins
 - Return on Investment
- Treasury Yield Curves
- Credit Spreads (Risk Structure of Interest Rates)
 - Federal-AAA
 - Federal-BBB
 - AAA-BBB

- State Street Investor Confidence Index
- Unemployment Rates
- Labour Force Participation Rates
- Part-Time / Full Time Employment
- Number of Discouraged Workers
- Number of Jobless Claims
- Fertility Rates
- Unit Labour Costs
 - Average Hourly Wages
 - Real Wages
 - Farm & Non-Farm Payroll
 - Labour Income-to-GDP
- Personal Disposable Income
- Baltic Dry Indexes
- International Trade
 - Trade in Goods
 - Trade in Services
 - Trade Balance
 - Current Account Deficit/Surplus
- Import and Export Prices
- Capital Account and Treasury International Capital (TIC) Flows
- Wholesale Trade
- Tankan Survey Results
- Consumer Price Indexes
- Producer Price Indexes
- GDP Deflator
- TED Spreads
- CBOE Volatility Index

11. The contractor must demonstrate that the software contains advanced analytical capabilities, allowing users to:

- Conduct statistical tests
- Perform linear/non-linear regressions. Undertake standard time series forecasting.

Security Requirements

There is no security requirement applicable to this requirement.

Name and Address of Proposed Contractor

Macrobond Financial Inc.,
 1450 Broadway, 30/F,
 New York, NY 10018, USA

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is:

November 7, 2023 EST 14:00pm

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed via email to:

Dawn Dormer, Senior Contracting Officer
Email: Dawn.Dormer@tbs-sct.gc.ca

Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0R2
Telephone: 343-542-8102