

RFP title
Solicitation #
Closing Date

Analysis of Climate Change Impacts on Crop Insurance
01B68-23-2712
January 31, 2024 14:00pm EST

Questions and Answers

Date: January 24, 2024

Question #	Question	Response
5	<p>In Annex D, Criteria R3 (on page 44) asks for three projects related to crop yield modelling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project 1) Experience in crop yield modelling for the crop insurance industry (maximum 10 points)• Project 2) Experience in crop yield volatility modelling for the crop insurance industry (maximum 10 points)• Project 3) Experience in applying commonly used climate change scenarios to analyze future changes in weather variables and consequently in crop yield distributions and yield volatilities (maximum 10 points) <p><u>Question:</u> If an engagement included work that involved 2 of these 3 areas (eg crop yield modelling and application of climate change scenarios) would it be ok to use this experience for both areas and consider the distinct pieces of the engagement as two projects for the purposes of Criteria R3?</p>	<p>Yes, the bidder can use one project example to demonstrate more than one of the experience criteria. However, by providing unique project examples for each of the three experience criteria, this demonstrates a wider breadth of experience and may generate a higher score by proposal reviewers.</p>
6	<p>"What specific parts of work scope will be Protected B?"</p>	<p>Government information is subject to various protections or classifications of data to preserve personal privacy, confidentiality or protect the national interest. "Protected B" information is not in the national interest, but whose unauthorized disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause grave injury to an individual, organization or government (e.g., prejudicial treatment, loss of reputation or competitive edge, identity theft and significant financial loss).</p> <p>For this project, AAFC will be providing "Protected B" information to the contractor through a secure data transfer mechanism. AAFC has permission from one province to use their producer-level data in the project. Data fields could include crop locations, crops grown, yields,</p>

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		<p>agricultural inputs, insured products, and insured acres. These producer-level data are classified “Protected B.”</p> <p>Specifically, in <i>Phase 1: Research and development</i>, the “Protected B” data will be shared by AAFC with the contractor. Prior to receiving data, the contractor will be subject to a security check to verify measures are in place to protect and prevent unauthorized disclosure of the AAFC data. This data can only be used for the project and the contractor will destroy the “Protected B” data after completion of the project.</p>
7	The RFP says that the analysis will use data from a Prairie province. Are you able to share the name of this province?	No, the province cannot be named. AAFC has permission from one province to use their data in the project and the province will be identified to the contractor only.
8	<p><i>“ In order for AAFC to share data with the third-party contractor, the successful contractor will be required to have a Canadian-based office and be subject to a Non-disclosure Agreement (NDA) that specifies how results will be shared and any data provided to the contractor by AAFC can only be used for the sole purpose of this project and then destroyed.”</i> Is it required that people working on the project be physically located in Canada? Can the data be stored on a server physically located in the United States?</p>	TBA
9	For one of relevant work experience projects (Criteria R2), we are considering using a project that has started but has not yet been completed. Will we be eligible for any points for such a project? Or does the fact that the project has not yet been completed automatically result in 0 points for the project.	For Criteria R2 where examples of completed projects are specifically requested, a project that is not completed will in theory not meet this criteria requirement and will not be evaluated. However, AAFC understands that crop insurance is a niche market and completing several projects in crop insurance might be challenging. Consequently, AAFC may adjust this evaluation criterion, and if so, the criterion will be applied consistently to all bidders. The assessment committee will consider all

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		proposals on the same basis and may decide to give partial points to projects not completed.
10	<p>Would AAFC consider amending the definition of “Bidder” to include Affiliates of the Bidder?</p> <p><i>As defined, the term “Bidder” refers to the entity submitting a bid, and does not include parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates of the Bidder. Many of the large global professional services organizations, are organized in a Member firm structure, which together forms a Network. In many parts of the world, regulated organizations (such as accounting firms) are required by law to be locally owned and independent. For this reason, the Network consists of firms which are separate legal entities (for example, the Canadian member firm is a separate legal firm from the Australian member firm).</i></p> <p><i>Member firms of a supplier operate and provide professional services under one brand, and collectively agree to certain common policies and initiatives to achieve a common and coordinated approach and maintain quality standards among individual firms as appropriate. Member firms of this supplier can share technology, use the brand name and draw on the resources and methodologies of the Network.</i></p> <p><i>To present our strongest proposal to AAFC, we request that the definition of Bidder be amended to include Affiliates.</i></p>	Request denied

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11	In the interest of allowing more competitive responses from smaller suppliers, would AAFC allow us to combine corporate capabilities with other smaller companies that want to partner with us, so that together we can meet the rated requirements?	Joint Venture Partnerships are permitted as per the terms of the RFP
12	Would AAFC be willing to accept resources on the proposed team who do not currently hold Reliability Status, but who would be willing to pursue reliability status if our bid is successful?	AAFC would allow this and will sponsor the reliability clearances if the Bidder is deemed successful.

All other Terms and Conditions remain unchanged.