

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

1. Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN)

An ACAN is a public notice indicating to the supplier community that a department or agency intends to award a contract for goods, services or construction to a pre-identified supplier, thereby allowing other suppliers to signal their interest in bidding, by submitting a statement of capabilities. If no supplier submits a statement of capabilities that meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, on or before the closing date stated in the ACAN, the contracting officer may then proceed with the award to the pre-identified supplier.

2. Definition of the requirement

The Department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) has a requirement for a technical and ecological application of an ecosystem model for northern Ontario implemented in SpaDES (Spatially Discrete Event Simulator) that will assess the natural range of variation (NRV) in ecosystem characteristics including tree composition, age and boreal landbird habitat. The results will be integrated as SpaDES-compatible modules that can be run over any part of the managed area covered by boreal managed forest zone (MFZ) in Ontario. This allows for continuous flexibility and updating as policies and regulations change, and as datasets and models improve.

Use of the SpaDES platform requires such that the work is compatible with existing modules and workflows and implemented in accordance with current and forthcoming changes to the SpaDES platform and module infrastructure.

The work will involve working within the SpaDES environment to:

1. Develop and test the automated parameterization methods of the forest vegetation and wildfire dynamics models for the boreal portion of the MFZ study area in Ontario;
2. Develop methods and produce model outputs for assessments of natural range of variation (NRV) for Ontario managed forests;
3. Integrate models of boreal landbird habitat quality/population density into the project's modelling workflow;
4. Produce model outputs for a draft manuscript on SpaDES application for Ontario and its potential for strategic land use planning and policy;
5. Provide support in the use of SpaDES for developing large-scale, spatially-explicit ecological simulation models for eastern Canadian boreal forests.

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)**3. Criteria for assessment of the Statement of Capabilities (Minimum Essential Requirements)**

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

- Experience: Must demonstrate experience in development and refinement of SpaDES platform and modules. Must have completed projects of similar size, scope and complexity. Must possess advanced coding experience in R demonstrated through papers and reports, and detailed knowledge of ongoing and proposed updates to the SpaDES modelling platform and module infrastructure.
- Knowledge and understanding of boreal ecological processes, ecosystem modelling, parameterization and modelling of fire processes and vegetation dynamics using historical fire data and permanent sample plot data. Must have a strong understanding of the ecology of eruptive forest insects, disturbance, and simulation modelling; Detailed knowledge of the SpaDES platform evidence by multiple peer-reviewed and client reports.
- Academic qualifications: must possess a PhD in ecosystem modelling from a recognized university, with experience working in Canadian forest ecosystems.
- Professional designation, accreditation, and/or certification: None required.

4. Applicability of the trade agreement(s) to the procurement (s) to the procurement

This procurement is not subject to the trade agreement(s)

5. Set-aside under the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business

Not Applicable

6. Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement(s)

Not Applicable

7. Justification for the Pre-Identified Supplier

The supplier mentioned in section 13 below is the only known supplier that meets the mandatory criteria set out in section 3 above.

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Should Canada receive a statement of capabilities from a supplier that contains sufficient information to indicate that it meets the requirements set forth in this ACAN, a competitive process will be triggered with a technical and financial evaluation methodology of the bids proposed by the potential bidders

8. Government Contracts Regulations Exception(s)

The following exception to the *Government Contracts Regulations* is invoked for this procurement under subsection 6(d) – “only one person is capable of performing the work”.

The identified supplier, Nova Cast, Inc. (operating as FOR-CAST Research & Analytics), is the only one able to meet all of the criteria identified in paragraph 3 above.

9. Exclusions and/or Limited Tendering Reasons

Not Applicable

10. Ownership of Intellectual Property

Ownership of any Foreground Intellectual Property arising out of the proposed contract will vest in the Contractor.

11. Period of the proposed contract or delivery date

The proposed contract is for an estimated period of 3 months, from contract award to March 31, 2024.

12. Cost estimate of the proposed contract

The estimated value of the contract is \$83,980.00 CAD (GST/HST extra).

13. Name and address of the pre-identified supplier

FOR-CAST Research & Analytics
PO BOX 96026 West Springs
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T3H 0L3

14. Suppliers' right to submit a statement of capabilities

Suppliers who consider themselves fully qualified and available to provide the goods, services or construction services described in the ACAN may submit a statement of capabilities in writing to the contact person 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.

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15. Closing date for a submission of a statement of capabilities

The closing date and time for accepting statements of capabilities is January 17, 2024 at 14:00 Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).

16. Inquiries and submission of statements of capabilities

Inquiries and statements of capabilities are to be directed to:

Gerald Baran
Procurement Specialist
Natural Resources Canada
506 West Burnside Road
Victoria, British Columbia, Canada V8Z 1M5
Telephone: +1 (778) 350 9373
E-mail address: gerald.baran@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca