

W6369-24DE32 Q&A #2 - English

- Q28-** Due to the number of specialized senior-level resources required, and the confirmation that there are corporate criteria, responding to this RFP requires a high level of effort. The 1-week extension provided already is helpful to Bidders but not sufficient given the complexity of this RFP. We respectfully request a further extension to amend the closing date to February 14 so that all Bidders can prepare high quality, compliant proposals.
- A28-** **No, there will be no further extensions.**
- Q29-** There were multiple Q&A regarding clarifications for M1e and M2e. Q&A #2 and #17 have confirmed that M1e and M2e are in fact corporate requirements and that Bidders should respond to them separately (i.e., are not a duplicate requirement). We respectfully request further clarification regarding the corporate criteria. Specifically, for both M1e and M2e, please confirm that the two (2) contracts* projects demonstrating the provision of resources that the Bidder must provide can be for any resources the Bidder has delivered, and do not have to include the resource proposed in M1a – M1d/M2a – M2d.
- A29-** **Yes, for both M1e and M2e, the two contracts/projects demonstrating the provision of resources can be for any resources that the Bidder has delivered. They do not necessarily have to include the specific resources proposed in M1a-M1d/M2a-M2d.**
- Q30-** Mandatory Requirement M3a requires candidates to have ten (10) years of experience conducting Technical Architecture Level 3 activities in support of a Crown Corporation Organization (Provincial and/or Municipal and/or Federal). This requirement is highly restrictive to many otherwise well qualified resources who have experience in the private sector. Would the Crown please confirm that experience conducting Technical Architecture Level 3 activities within private corporations will also be accepted for M3a?
- A30-** **RFP updated to include private corporations in M3a.**
- Q31-** Would the Crown please accept resources who are only available in a remote capacity to perform the work for this solicitation?
- A31-** **No, those resources won't be accepted.**
- Q32-** Given that resources will be needed on an "as-and-when required" basis, would the crown please allow vendors to submit three resources, one senior resource for each specialization identified, specifically a Business Analyst Level 3 (Resource #1), Technical Architect (Resource #3) and a Technical Security Engineer. Evaluating three resources at bid submission will enable vendors to submit proposals of the highest value to the Crown, accurately demonstrate capabilities and allow the Crown greater flexibility in supporting this project. (I specified the resource # because the 2 BA and 2 Tech Architects have 2 different grids each and the recruiters are having a hard time with Resource #2 and Resource #4)
- A32-** **Requirement has changed please see the amended RFP # 2.**
- Q33-** Could the Crown please confirm whether our interpretation is correct, and that Bidders can cite the same contracts for both corporate mandatory requirements M1e and M2e?
- A33-** **Yes.**
- Q34-** Could the Crown please confirm that items (i) – (v) for requirements M1e and M2e can be demonstrated cumulatively?

A34- Yes.

Q35- Can the Crown provide vendors with a list of all the questions and answers for this DND STORM bid, in accordance with PSPC/PWGSC rules on questions submitted by vendors. In addition, could you also provide an overview of all the modifications that have been made to the RFP grids and other content that has been modified as per Amendment #001?

A35- **The questions and answers were posted on CanadaBuys on Friday 19 February 2024. The amendment #1 of the RFP was sent to all involved qualified vendors.**

Q36- In the Mandatory Grid requirements for both 1.3 Business Analyst – Level 3 – Resource # 1 (Requirements M1e) and B.2 Business Analyst – Level 3 – Resource # 2 - Transformation (Requirements M2e), "The Bidder must provide two projects where they provided resources that performed the following' The wording appears to suggest a corporate requirement rather than a resource qualification. Could you please confirm if this wording is intentional and if so, clarify whether there is meant to be a separate B.2 Business Analyst – Level 3 – Resource # 2 as part of the resource grids. If this is a not a corporate requirement, can the Crown please amend it to 'The Bidder's proposed resource performed the following' for both M1e and M2e

A36- **See Q17-A17.**

Q37- For B.2 Business Analyst – Level 3 – Resource # 2(Transformation) M2c states that the proposed resource must also demonstrate a minimum of two (2) years of experience within the last five (5) years specifically related to Artificial Intelligence / Deep Automation concepts and their application in Business Case Analysis for training system Enhancement. Artificial Intelligence & Deep Automation are both relatively new fields and are very seldomly used for training system enhancements. This application of AI/DA is currently being explored, but has not been widely deployed, especially within the Canadian government. Can the Crown please adjust this requirement to the following: "The proposed resource must also demonstrate a minimum of two (2) years of experience within the last five (5) years specifically related to Artificial Intelligence / Deep Automation concepts and their application in Business Case Analysis for IT system Enhancement." Resources that meet the newly worded requirement would still have the general AI/DA knowledge required to develop case analysis for training system enhancements but are not unjustly disqualified for not having worked specifically on a training system enhancement project.

A37- **Those applications are what are required for this solicitation.**

NOTE: The RFP amendment 2 will be provided to vendors with a change to the LOE for resources 1, 3 and 5 in the initial Contract period. These resources were earmarked to support a nascent testing environment to support the project, but at this moment, this capability is not mature enough to require their support at this time. However, they will likely be required near the end of FY24/25 thus the estimated LOE of 40 days for each.