

AMENDMENT N°. 003

This amendment is raised to answer questions as follows:

Question 13:

Regarding the mentioned RFP, one of the rated for all categories states: The Bidder demonstrates that the proposed resource has experience within the last fifteen (15) years performing IT Security assessment work for the Government of Canada, Provincial and municipal Government entities, and large private sector corporations, in accordance with Security Policies and related operational level documents.

Do they have to have all three (Fed/Prov/Private) or would it be an and/or situation?

Answer 13:

Any experience with one **or** more of the listed entities (Federal, Provincial, Municipal and/ or Private) will be accepted.

Question 14:

With respect to Corporate Criteria M1, R1 and R2, Bidders are requested to complete Form 6. Form 6 states "The Bidder must provide with this Form a copy of the reference contract." IT professional services contracts of this nature are often 100+ pages. Is it acceptable for Bidders to submit the signed front page of each contract that displays the contract value to satisfy this requirement?

Answer 14:

Provided that the requested information is clearly demonstrated, it is acceptable for Bidders to submit the signed front page of each of the identified contracts.

Question 15:

Under Bid Preparation Instructions, 3.3 Section II: Financial Bid, the RFP states Bidders must submit their financial bid in accordance with the Basis of Payment provided in Annex B. However, in Part 4 – Evaluation and Basis of Selection, 4.3 Financial Evaluation, the RFP indicates Bidders should complete Form 3 – Pricing Schedule. Can DND please confirm what Bidders should submit with their Financial Bid – the Basis of Payment or the Pricing Schedule?

Answer 15:

Canada requires both: the Basis of Payment, and the Pricing Schedule.

Question 16:

With respect to the Level 3 - IT Security Engineer, R3 requests a degree from a recognized post-secondary institution. As the nature of the work completed by an IT Security Engineer is more applied and hands-on, would DND please confirm it will accept a post-secondary diploma with a specialization in computer science, information technology, and/or cyber security?

Answer 16:

Under R3, only an undergraduate, and/or a Postgraduate degree would be considered.

Question 17:

- a. Will DND accept the following certifications in addition to the certifications listed in Rated Evaluation Criteria R2 for the Incident Management Specialist:
 - ISACA – Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
 - ISACA – Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer (CDPSE)
 - Splunk – Enterprise Security Certified Admin
- b. Will DND accept the following certifications in addition to the certifications listed in Rated Evaluation Criteria R2 for the Information Technology Security Engineer:
 - Palo Alto Networks – Palo Alto Networks Certified Network Security Engineer (PCNSE)
 - Fortinet – NSE 1 Network Security Associate
 - Fortinet – NSE 2 Network Security Associate
 - Microsoft – Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate
 - Cisco – Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)
 - Cisco – Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
 - Juniper Networks – Juniper Networks Certified Specialist (JNCIS-SEC)
- c. Will DND accept the following certification in addition to the certifications listed in Rated Evaluation Criteria R3 for the IT Security Threat and Risk Assessment and Certification and Accreditation Analyst:
 - ISACA – Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)
- d. Will DND accept the following certification in addition to the certifications listed in Rated Evaluation Criteria R2 for the Strategic IT Security Planning and Protection Consultant:
 - ISACA – Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer (CDPSE)
- e. For resource, 2.1 Level 3 - Strategic IT Security Planning and Protection Consultant, criteria R2 requires that the resource hold Information Security professional training and certification recognized by 3rd party professional cyber security communities. DND provides a list of certifications with a statement above that says, “such as but not limited to.”

Therefore, would DND please confirm it would accept the following security certifications, as the following certifications are recognized within the community, all of which include network security components.

- CCNA Security Certification (Cisco Certified Network Associate - Security Certification, Implementing Cisco IOS Network Security)
 - CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)
 - CCNA Voice (Cisco Voice over IP)
 - CCSK (Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge V4)
- f. Will DND accept the following relevant certifications in addition to the certifications listed in Rated Evaluation Criteria R2 for the Strategic IT Security Planning and Protection Consultant:
- ISACA – Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT)
 - CIS – Critical Security Controls Supporter License
- g. Similar to Amendment 002, Q&A #8D, will DND please confirm that a resource with a valid Bachelor of Science from a recognized Canadian post-secondary institution would meet Mandatory Criteria M2 and Rated Criteria R3 for the Strategic IT Security Planning and Protection Consultant?

Answer 17:

All of the certificates and degrees listed in the question will be accepted.

Question 18:

There is some inconsistency between the M1 requirement and the Form 6 to be completed. The M1 requirement states:

- a) Been awarded within the past Seven (7) years (as of bid closing date);
- b) A duration of at least twelve (12) months within the past Seven (7) years (as of bid closing date); (Note: duration does not include option periods that have not been exercised).
- c) A minimum contract value of \$3,500,000.00 (taxes included).
- d) Have a minimum total invoiced amount of 75% of the original value of the Contract (before taxes).

These statements reflect the entire contract including exercised options as options periods are completed work within the parameters of the entire contract.

However, Form 6 states Total contract value (excluding Applicable Taxes and not including amendments): which means the Total contract value would be the initial Contract Award value, without any exercised option periods' value, implemented through contract amendments.

Would Canada please confirm Form 6 should say: "total contract value" (excluding relevant taxes and any option periods that have not been exercised)?

Answer 18:

On Form 6, CUSTOMER REFERENCE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM, Page 75:
Delete:

excluding Applicable Taxes and not including amendments

insert:

excluding relevant taxes and any option periods that have not been exercised.

Question 19:

For Corporate requirement M1 - Item d) "Have a minimum total invoiced amount of 75% of the original value of the Contract (before taxes)." If a four (4) year contract was awarded within the last eighteen (18) months, it would be difficult to achieve total invoiced amount of 75%.

Therefore, would the Crown consider easing the requirement to allow at least one (1) of the two (2) contract references to meet items d)?

Answer 19:

Canada will not change this requirement.

Question 20:

Due to the complexity of preparing a response to this solicitation and the large number of bids currently out to tender, we would like to request a one-week extension to the solicitation to ensure best value for the crown?

Answer 20:

Canada will not extend the solicitation further.

All other terms and conditions remain the same.