

W8474-24IC10

- Q1.** Has there been an incumbent within twelve months (or greater) either as a Term; Casual or Agency Contract (THS, TSPS, TBIPS) performing these duties?
If so, has the incumbent Vendor been invited? If so, can you provide the number of days worked on said contract along with the dollar value?
- A1.** There are incumbents for the positions of Business Transformation Architect and Business Architect. Incumbents have been invited.
- The Business Transformation Architect is currently under Task based Contract W6369-18CY01-001.
Days worked for this particular task: From 2023-04-03 to 2024-03-31.
Overall Contract value: \$8,271,707.65
 - The Business Architect is currently under Contract W6369-24DE21
Days worked: From 2023-08-08 to 2024-03-08
Contract value: \$121,814.00
- Q2.** Could the Crown please elaborate on Section 1.4 “Conflict of Interest” and specify details on the ICAM procurement processes vendors may be precluded from? The statement in the section also suggests that a bidder “may” be precluded – could the crown provide details on the determining factor(s) on what would preclude the bidder in the future processes?
- A2.** The ICAM project is currently in Definition Phase. There may be future solicitations where ICAM requires similar work to be completed. This clause (1.4) and clause 7.5 of the resulting Contract clauses are included to inform vendors of the potential for a future Conflict of Interest on future solicitations. From 7.5: “the experience acquired by the Contractor, it’s employees, consultants, subcontractors, former employees, advisors or representatives who are providing or have provided the services described in this Contract, will not, in itself, be considered by Canada as creating a conflict of interest or conferring an unfair advantage or creating a conflict of interest. The Contractor remains, however, subject to the criteria established in future RFPs regarding to conflict of interest and unfair advantage.”
As per SACC 2003 section 18 which forms part of this RFP and will form part of future RFPs:
1. “In order to protect the integrity of the procurement process, bidders are advised that Canada may reject a bid in the following circumstances:
 - a. if the Bidder, any of its subcontractors, any of their respective employees or former employees was involved in any manner in the preparation of the bid solicitation or in any situation of conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest;
 - b. if the Bidder, any of its subcontractors, any of their respective employees or former employees had access to information related to the bid solicitation that was not available to other bidders and that would, in Canada's opinion, give or appear to give the Bidder an unfair advantage.
 2. The experience acquired by a bidder who is providing or has provided the goods and services described in the bid solicitation (or similar goods or services) will not, in itself, be considered by Canada as conferring an unfair advantage or creating a conflict of interest. This bidder remains however subject to the criteria established above.
 3. Where Canada intends to reject a bid under this section, the Contracting Authority will inform the Bidder and provide the Bidder an opportunity to make representations before making a final decision. Bidders who are in doubt about a particular situation should contact the Contracting Authority before bid closing. By submitting a bid, the Bidder represents that it does not consider itself to be in conflict of interest nor to have an unfair advantage. The Bidder acknowledges that it is within Canada's sole discretion to determine whether a conflict of interest, unfair advantage or an appearance of conflict of interest or unfair advantage exists.”
- Q3.** Could the Crown please confirm whether similar services have been provided within the last 12 months?
- A3.** See Q1 – A1.

- Q4.** Requests a two (2) week extension to the closing date of the subject solicitation.
A4. Request granted. New closing date will be February 5th, 2024 at 14h00.
- Q5.** Is there presently or has there been an incumbent performing these services in some capacity, with the past 12 months? If so, can you please tell us the name of the vendor, the duration, and the value of contract?
- A5.** Additional to Q1-A1: W6369-18CY01-001 Vendor name: Modis Canada Inc.
 W6369-24DE21 Vendor name: Procom
- Q6.** Requirement R4 for the Business Transformation Architect role states that “The proposed resource should have experience working within a Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), Department of National Defence (DND) and/or Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) project team.”
- While it is understood that there is inherent value in having similar previous experience working with DND entities; however, the point weighting is highly restrictive and limits industry leading ICAM resource from maintaining competitiveness in the RFP competition due to the technical weighting of 10 points for 10+ years. For this reason, we respectfully request that the point weighting of R4 for the Business Transformation Architect category to be aligned with the point weighting of R4 (identical requirement) for the Business Analyst, Level 3 category. This would ensure DND has an opportunity to derive best value and receive RFP responses inclusive of ICAM Specialist with worldclass experience despite not having significant experience at DND.
 E.g.:
 > 0 to 1 year = 1 pt
 > 1 to 2 years = 2 pts
 > 2 years = 3 Pts
- A6.** This rated criterion will remain status quo. There is added importance for DND experience with this resource category.
- Q7.** Requirement R2 for the Business Analyst, Level 2 & Level 3 Category role states that “The Contractor should have experience using IBM Rationale DOORS for requirement management.”
- DND is the only government department to utilize IBM Rationale DOORS, as such, this requirement severely limits the technical scoring for any ICAM BA Specialists’ who have extensive experiencing providing ICAM services the GoC, but whom have not worked extensively with DND. As such, we respectfully request that DND include similar requirement management tools to be provided as an alternative of IBM Rationale DOORS, other prominent tools used across the GoC departments include but is not limited to: MS DevOps, MS Team Foundation Server, Jira, Confluence, Atlassian). This will ensure DND has an opportunity to derive best value from the RFP process by way of the receipt of additional bid responses which are inclusive of ICAM BA Specialist who have experience with alternative tools alike to IBM Rationale DOORS.
- A7.** DND will change R3 of the Business Analyst L2 and Business Analyst L3 as follows:
 ‘The Contractor should have experience with requirement management software such as IBM Rationale DOORS, MS DevOps, Jira, or Confluence.’
- Q8.** The RFP title is referenced as “ICAM TBIPS”, which aligns with the majority of the reference material within the contents of the RFP. However, the inclusion of provision No. 1. of Appendix A to Annex A (Pg. 55) states that
- “Where a requirement for a specific task is identified, a draft Task Authorization Form (TA Form) as attached at Appendix B to Annex A will be provided to the Contractor in accordance with the allocation methodology stated in the Contract Article titled "Allocation of Task Authorizations". Once a draft TA Form is received, the Contractor must submit to the Technical Authority a quotation of rates to supply the requested Resource Categories based on the information identified in the TA Form, as well as its corresponding proposed resource(s). The quotation must be signed and submitted to Canada within the time for response identified in the TA Form. The Contractor will be given a minimum of two (2)

working days (or any longer time period specified in the draft TA) turnaround time to submit a quotation.”

The nature of this clause and associated requirement necessitates a supplier to bear responsibility and risk; however, such an undertaking is representative of the scope and purpose of an SBIPS RFP. As defined by, PSPC (<https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/app-acq/spc-cps/spicsaa-sbipssa-eng.html>): An SBIPS is utilized for a scope of work which requires a Supplier to deliver a solution and one which accepts responsibility/risk for the outcome.

As an SBIPS is the appropriate contracting mechanism for the utilization of provision No. 1. of Appendix A to Annex A, we respectfully request the removal of the provision from the current TBIPS RFP, or, the revision of the current TBIPS RFP services into the an SBIPS format in order to utilize the appropriate contracting vehicle and its associated guidelines and mechanisms.

A8. Appendix A to Annex A is derived from the TBIPS SA template and details the procedure for creating a task authorization under the TBIPS SA. DND would identify a specific task through a draft TA form which the vendor would need to respond to. This is the typical procedure for a TBIPS SA Contract. If you have questions about the wording and procedure of this Appendix, please contact the TBIPS SA PSPC email address rcnmdai.ncrimos@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca.

Q9. Please confirm the number of resources that are required to be submitted at time of bid.

A9. DND requires 6 resources to be submitted at the time of bid.

Q10. Re: ANNEX B: BASIS OF PAYMENT. Please confirm the “Estimated Number of Days” that will be used in the Financial Evaluation in each of the 3 tables.

A10. DND will require 220 days per resource for the first full year (12 months). DND will require 220 days per resource for Option 1 one with the exception of the Business Architect which will only require 70 days. For option year 2, DND will require 110 days per resource. We will make these updates in the RFP Annex B. If per diems differ between resources of the same category, please add a line to the table as needed.

Q11. Can you please confirm if anyone has been providing the same or similar services in the past 12 months and if so the details of the contract (duration, contract value etc.)

A11. See A1 and A5 above.

Q12. For the bid submission, DND requires 2 Business Analysts L2, 2 Business Analysts L3, one BTA and one Business Architect. In order to be compliant with the bid, do bidders have to present a total of 6 resources, or would a bid still be compliant if a supplier only provides one resource per category?

A12. Yes, DND requires 6 resources.

Q13. Page 7 of the RFP indicates that the total estimated number of resources for all of the categories listed is six. Can DND please confirm if Bidders must submit all six resources at time of submission or just one resource for each category (i.e. one Business Analyst, Level 2, one Business Analyst, Level 3, one Business Architect, Level 3, and one Business Transformation Architect, Level 3)?

A13. A compliant bid should include 2 x Business Analysts L2, 2 x Business Analysts L3, 1 x Business Architect and 1 x Business Transformation Architect.