

# Request for Supplier Qualification

<b>Name of Competition:</b>	Carbon Offset Credit Providers Roster
<b>Competition Number:</b>	DC-2024-AK-01
<b>Closing Date and Time:</b>	February 15, 2024, 14:00 Pacific Time (PT)
<b>Contracting Authority:</b>	Annie Kao Procurement Advisor <a href="mailto:procurement@destinationcanada.com">procurement@destinationcanada.com</a>

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**CANADA** 

Q ue b e c W e s t e r n o n t a r i o

As storytellers and representatives of Canada's tourism sector, we recognize our position of influence, and the importance of our work, workplace and workforce in reflecting the many voices and places that make up Canada.

At Destination Canada, we acknowledge the Indigenous Peoples of all the lands that we work and live on. We do this to reaffirm our commitment and responsibility in improving relationships between Nations and our own understanding of local Indigenous Peoples and their cultures. From coast to coast to coast, we acknowledge the territory of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who have called this place home for generations beyond measure.

## SECTION A – INTRODUCTION

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The Canadian Tourism Commission, doing business as Destination Canada ("DC"), is Canada's national tourism organization and a Crown Corporation of the federal government. DC supports the Canadian tourism industry by:

- sustaining a vibrant and profitable Canadian tourism industry;
- marketing Canada as a desirable tourist destination;
- supporting a cooperative relationship between the private sector and the governments of Canada, the provinces and the territories with respect to Canadian tourism; and
- providing information about Canadian tourism to the private sector and to the governments of Canada, the provinces and the territories.

At Destination Canada we believe in the power of tourism.

Our aspiration is to enhance the wealth and wellbeing of Canadians and enrich the lives of visitors.

Our mission is to influence supply and build demand for the benefit of locals, communities and visitors through leading research, alignment with public and private sectors, and marketing Canada nationally and abroad. In collaboration with our partners, we promote Canada as a premier four-season leisure and business tourism destination around the country and world.

Destination Canada's approach focuses on markets where Canada's tourism brand leads and yields the highest return on investment. We use research to drive our evidence-based marketing in ten key geographic leisure source markets: Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, our Business Events team leverage in-depth global market analysis to target international clusters aligned with Canada's priority economic sectors.

We believe that Canada's diversity, its greatest asset, is also, what touches travellers' hearts most deeply. To that end, we are committed to inclusive leadership within our workforce, workplace, and interactions with partners and travellers alike.

For further information, visit <http://www.destinationcanada.com>.

### A1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of this Request for Supplier Qualification (the "RFSQ") is to solicit proposals from companies that offer Carbon Offset Credits for purchase in Canada. See Statement of Work (Section C) for detailed requirements.

It is DC's intent to develop a roster of pre-qualified proponents (the "Roster") which will be utilized as required to meet DC's needs. At the final outcome of the RFSQ process, the proponents selected for the Roster ("Contractors") may be required to collaborate with DC's other service providers and partners to ensure that public relations and communications services are consistent with DC's mandate, brand and corporate strategy.

This procurement process is not intended to create and does not create a formal binding bidding process whereby every proponent is deemed to have entered into a "Contract A" with DC. Instead, the process is intended to enable DC to learn what proponents can offer by way of goods or services in response to DC's Statement of Work. Depending on the number and variety of responses, DC will subsequently negotiate with those proposals that best serve its needs, as determined by DC.

By submitting a proposal, a proponent agrees to this negotiated process and agrees that they will not bring a claim against DC with respect to the award of a contract, failure to award a contract or failure to honour a response to this RFSQ.

In summary, this RFSQ is issued solely for the purpose of obtaining proposals and developing a Roster. Neither the issuance of this RFSQ nor the submission of a proposal implies any obligation by DC to enter into any agreement. The intent of this RFSQ is to identify those vendors capable of meeting DC's requirements and with whom a final agreement may be negotiated.

**A2. Roster Term**

Qualified proponents that demonstrate the ability to meet the requirements identified in this RFSQ may be included on DC's Roster. The initial contract term for proponent inclusion on DC's Roster may be for a period up to five (5) years, with an option to extend on an annual basis for a total period not to exceed another two (2) years, at DC's sole discretion. The total period of the Roster (initial term plus any extensions) is not to exceed seven (7) years. DC does not grant exclusivity, guarantee business or make any guarantee of the value or volume of work that may be assigned to the Contractor.

**A3. Standing Offer Agreement**

Any proponent who is selected for the Roster, will be required to enter into a mutually agreeable non-exclusive standing offer agreement ("SOA") with DC. Each individual future project or service requirement would then be initiated by way of a Statement of Work ("SOW"), which will set out the specifics of the project or service and will be governed by the terms and conditions of the SOA. Proponents should note that execution of an SOA with DC pursuant to this RFSQ does not guarantee that any work will be issued to that proponent.

**A4. Roster / SOA Process**

The Roster will be utilized as required, at DC's sole discretion, to meet DC's needs. DC does not guarantee business or make any guarantee of the value or volume of work that may be assigned to any proponent that has qualified for the Roster. See Section H for conditions set out by DC for using Rosters and SOAs following an RFSQ process.

## **SECTION B – RFSQ EVALUATION CRITERIA AND INSTRUCTIONS**

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### **B.1 Mandatory Criteria Evaluation**

To qualify for evaluation, proposals will first be checked against the mandatory criteria set out in Section D. Proponents failing to satisfy the mandatory criteria evaluation will be provided an opportunity to rectify any deficiencies (“Rectification Period”). Proposals satisfying the mandatory criteria during the Rectification Period will be further evaluated as outlined in Section B.2. All proposals failing to satisfy the mandatory criteria after the Rectification Period will be excluded from further consideration and notified as such. The Rectification Period will begin at the closing of the RFSQ and will end within a period defined by DC in its sole discretion.

### **B.2 Desirable Criteria, Pricing Evaluation**

Proposals meeting the mandatory criteria will then be evaluated and scored on the desirable criteria set out below. DC’s evaluation committee may be comprised of DC employees and consultants to DC who are bound by an agreement of confidentiality with respect to the RFSQ process. The evaluation committee will be responsible for reviewing and evaluating proposals and making an award recommendation to DC Senior Executive.

All decisions on the degree to which proposals meet the stated criteria and the scores assigned during the evaluations, are at the sole discretion of DC.

#### **B.2.1 Desirable Criteria Questionnaire (Section E) 75%**

Proposals will be evaluated based on meeting the desirable criteria; proposals that achieve a score of 45% (which is 60% of 75%) or higher will meet the desirable criteria “Threshold”. Following evaluation of the desirable criteria, DC may limit further evaluation to only those top ranked proposals which met the Threshold.

#### **B.2.2 Proposed Pricing (Section F) 25%**

Following evaluation of Proposed Pricing, DC may limit further evaluation to only top ranked proposals (the “Shortlist”).

Following evaluation, DC may select a limited number of top ranked proponents to be included on the Carbon Offset Credit Providers Roster.

### **B.3 Negotiations**

DC intends to conduct concurrent negotiations, as defined in Section G.10 Negotiations, with a limited number of the top ranked proponent(s).

### **B.4 Proposal Submissions, Questions, Intentions and Instructions**

#### **B.4.1 Submissions**

Proponents should submit their entire proposal via e-mail to the Contracting Authority by the closing date and time (“Closing Time”) of **2 p.m. Pacific Time, February 15, 2024**.

Any proposal received after the Closing Time may not be reviewed by DC. The proponent has sole responsibility for the timely submission of their proposal.

Proposals should be in PDF format and should be submitted as per the instructions in B.4.3 below. All proposals received as a result of this RFSQ shall become the property of DC. The time stamp of DC's email system shall be the official time for receipt of the proposal.

#### B.4.2 Questions

Proponents may submit questions via e-mail to the Contracting Authority until **2 p.m. Pacific Time, January 30, 2024**. Questions submitted after this date and time may not receive a response.

If DC, in its sole discretion, determines that information generated from any question will be of interest to all, a summary of anonymous questions and answers will be made available to all proponents in the form of an amendment. The source of all questions will be kept confidential.

If a proponent believes that disclosure of a question and response would expose a proprietary aspect of its proposal, the proponent may submit the question with an advisory to DC explaining why it should not be included with the posted anonymous questions and answers. If DC concurs with the request, the question will be answered in confidence and will not be posted. If DC does not concur with the request, the proponent will be asked to restate the question, and if this is not possible, the proponent has the option to withdraw the question.

#### B.4.3 Intentions

Proponents should indicate if they intend to submit a proposal ("Intent to Submit") via e-mail to the Contracting Authority by **2 p.m. Pacific Time, February 7, 2024**.

Please note: The Intent to Submit is not a mandatory requirement and therefore does not prevent a proponent from submitting by the required Closing Time.

#### B.4.4 Instructions

All intentions, questions and submissions are to be e-mailed to [procurement@destinationcanada.com](mailto:procurement@destinationcanada.com) and should reference "**RFSQ DC-2024-AK-01 Carbon Offset Credit Providers Roster - CONFIDENTIAL**" in the e-mail subject line. Include the following with your intentions, and questions and submissions:

- Company name
- Name and title of contact person
- Phone, cellphone and e-mail of contact person
- Reference to the corresponding RFSQ section(s) if applicable

There is a maximum of twenty-megabyte (20 MB) file size acceptance of any e-mail. Proponents should divide their responses into appropriately sized (smaller than 20 MB) numbered files. In the e-mail the proponent should provide the detail for each section and how many e-mails they will send. Proposals are stored in an electronically secure and restricted environment. Proposals will not be opened until after the Closing Time has passed.

### B.5 RFSQ Form of Response, Format and Depth

#### B.5.1 RFSQ Form of Response

Proponents must respond to and include in their proposal:

- Appendix 1 – Proponent Information and Acknowledgement Form
- Appendix 2 – Material Circumstances Form
- Appendix 3 – Amendments
- Appendix 4 – Declaration of Sub-Contractor
- Section D – Mandatory Criteria (if applicable)
- Section E – Desirable Criteria Questionnaire
- Section F – Pricing Proposal (must be a separate Excel file)

#### B.5.2 RFSQ Format and Depth

This Request for Supplier Qualification sets out DC's requirements, desired options and additional considerations. Proponents should prepare their proposals providing a straightforward and detailed description of their ability to provide the requirements set out in this RFSQ. Emphasis in each proposal should be on completeness and clarity of content and should correspond to the section numbering set out. Proposals that do not clearly address the requested requirements and/or do not reference the applicable section numbers may be refused for evaluation purposes.

References to hyperlinks or links to social media sites (e.g., LinkedIn) may not be considered by DC in the evaluation process and should not be used. Therefore, any information provided for evaluation should be included in your written proposal.

Only material supplied in response to this RFSQ, and any presentations or demonstrations (if applicable) will be considered and evaluated. Information, proposals, or presentations previously supplied to DC and references to any material, information or presentations not included in your proposal response will not be considered. No assumptions should be made that DC has any previous knowledge of the proponents' qualifications other than that supplied pursuant to this RFSQ.

## SECTION C – STATEMENT OF WORK

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### C.1 Background

DC is dedicated to setting a precedent through the implementation of an extensive initiative to reduce, measure and offset Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions arising from our corporate activities. The objective of this undertaking is to secure premium carbon offset credits within the voluntary market.

### C.2 Objective

DC aims to establish a Roster of Contractors who can provide DC with a range of Carbon Offset Credits for potential purchase. DC expects to engage in periodic purchases several times a year, on an as and when basis, ensuring diversity in individual transactions.

### C.3 Scope of Work

DC is looking for experienced Contractors who are capable of providing a suite of high-quality carbon offset credits in line with the Canadian government's environmental standards and DC's commitment to sustainability. This includes a focus on long-term project viability and stability, ensuring that projects are sustainable post-credit sales and have strategies to mitigate risks such as political changes, economic shifts, or environmental threats.

The selected Contractor(s) will be responsible for Emission Reduction and Removal Verification, as well as Portfolio Diversity, with an emphasis on projects that demonstrate strong community engagement, data transparency, and positive environmental impact assessments.

Starting in Q1 2024, DC plans to make carbon offsetting a requirement of its business operations. In 2022, emissions generated from DC corporate operations totaled 1634.5 tCO<sub>2</sub>e from the following sources:

<b>Emissions Source</b>	<b>Emissions Amount (tCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>
Scope 1	41.9
Scope 2	10.4
Scope 3	1582.2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1634.5</b>

DC aims to offset emissions originating from corporate operations and anticipates a requirement to offset between 250 - 1000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2024, with additional offsets necessary in the subsequent years. It's important to emphasize that this figure is a preliminary estimate, and more precise values will be provided at a later date.

### C.4 Approach and Methodology

#### C.4.1 Criteria for Carbon Offsets

It is essential that carbon offset credits undergo quantification, validation, monitoring, reporting and verification. The carbon offset credits must also include detailed documentation, ensuring transparency in project execution and impact. This documentation should cover comprehensive project information, including but not limited to project name, type, location, and price per tonne.

Calculations for emission reductions must adopt a conservative and transparent approach. The basis for offset credits should rely on precise measurements and quantification methods/protocols.



Projects must also demonstrate a commitment to community engagement, detailing how local communities are involved and benefit from the project. This includes respecting local land rights and integrating local community needs and perspectives into project development.

The carbon offset credits must comply with the following:

a) Type of Credit

- Credits must represent greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with the unit CO<sub>2</sub>e in order to be equivalent representation of emission reductions associated with various GHG emissions.
- The Contractor must have the right to either retire the carbon offset credits in the name of DC or transfer the ownership of the carbon offset credits to DC.
- The Contractor will guarantee that carbon offset credits reflect factual, measurable, permanent, transparent, defensible, conservative and additional emission reductions and removals.

b) Be Factual and Measurable

- Emission reductions must be factual and measurable rather than prospective, theoretical, or intangible. The accounting for emission reductions should adhere to recognized industry standards such as ISO-14064-2 and/or approved offset protocols. This guarantees that an offset genuinely signifies a concrete and distinct reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

c) Be Permanent

- Any achieved emissions reductions and/or removal enhancements must be permanent and therefore, irreversible. Energy efficiency and renewable energy projects are inherently permanent, whereas forestry projects may not be. In such instances, a range of design, financial and insurance-based methods is employed to ensure a sufficient level of assurance in effectively mitigating the risk of reversal.

d) Be Transparent and Defendable

- GHG information must be disclosed in a manner that provides DC with sufficient and appropriate details, enabling informed decision making with a reasonable level of assurance.

e) Be Conservative

- Projects must employ caution assumptions, values and procedures to prevent the overstatement of emission reductions, while maintaining accuracy and transparency.

f) Additional Criteria

- Offset projects must illustrate that emission reductions would not be economically viable under standard conditions or mandated by regulations. This criterion is essential to establish that the reductions are supplementary to business-as-usual conditions and are only made possible through the monetization of emission reductions.

C.4.2. High-quality Standards:

- a) Requirements for project-level quantification, monitoring and reporting align with ISO 14064-2: 2006, specifying guidance for the project-level quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions reductions or removal enhancements.
- b) Project validation and verification for GHG emission reductions and/or removals adhere to ISO 14064-3: 2006, providing guidance for the validation and verification of greenhouse gas assertions.
- c) The accreditation of validation/verification bodies follows ISO 14065:2020, outlining requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation.
- d) Double Counting: Offsets must possess distinct ownership rights and should not be subject to double counting. Unique ownership guarantees that a single reduction is not claimed by multiple organizations and ensures the facilitation of offset markets. Achieving this involves serializing and recording offsets in an offset registry. Each carbon credit is assigned a unique name corresponding to the registry where the project is documented, along with a traceable serial number and a unique ID specific to the originating project. This process guarantees the prevention of double counting when trading and retiring carbon credits for the purpose of offsetting emissions elsewhere.
- e) Net Positive: The generation of carbon offsets should result in overall positive environmental and community impacts. The bidder must possess the capability to evaluate and showcase both the direct and indirect non-climate-related environmental and community impacts of their project activities. Moreover, they must demonstrate that the cumulative effect of these impacts is positive.
- f) The generation of carbon offsets should result in the reduction of greenhouse gases in a designated area, without causing a rise in emissions elsewhere. Any potential leakage linked to the offset project must have been addressed during the project design stage through an assessment of likely leakage and the implementation of measures to minimize it.
- g) The carbon credits must come from projects in GHG reduction programs that adhere to high-quality, internationally agreed standards, such as The Gold Standard, Canadian Standards Association, Climate Action Reserve (CAR), VER+, BC Offset System, VERRA, and the American Carbon Registry.
- h) Vintage: DC's focus is on recent emission reduction credits, therefore only credit vintages from January 2019 onwards will be considered, with the exception of: forestry and land-use projects. For Forestry and land-use projects, credits should be from within seven years up to and including the emissions year (e.g. 2016-2022 for 2022 emissions). There are no specific start date requirements for projects, as long as these vintage criteria are met.
- i) Voluntary: DC will only consider carbon offsets from the voluntary market.

#### C.4.3 Carbon Offset Portfolio Development

DC will be building a portfolio of offset projects that focus on nature-based solutions and will take the following hierarchy into consideration when developing the portfolio with the vendor. Listed in order of preference:

- a) Nature-based offset projects in Canada involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- b) Other nature-based offset projects in Canada.
- c) Nature-based offset projects in the United States involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- d) Other nature-based offset projects in the United States.
- e) Nature-based offset projects in other countries which generate additional environmental, social and economic benefits for society, beyond reducing or sequestering GHG emissions.
- f) Other (i.e. non-nature based) offset projects in Canada involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- g) Other offset projects in Canada.

- h) Other offset projects in the United States involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- i) Other offset projects in the United States.
- j) Other offset projects in other countries which generate additional environmental, social and economic benefits for the society, beyond reducing or sequestering GHG emissions.

### **C.5 Deliverables and Schedule**

Carbon offset credits should be available for purchase as needed with the transaction completed within 30 calendar days of the initial request. DC may provide a budget range for the carbon offsets to receive more tailored responses from contractors.

### **C.6 Performance Standards and Quality Measurement**

DC is committed to fostering and supporting strong positive relationships with its Contractors to ensure critical services are maintained and the highest value and corporate-wide economic benefits are realized. As such, the Contractor's performance during the term of the agreement may be assessed using key performance measures and acceptance criteria. This includes a feedback and learning mechanism where both DC and the Contractor can review and improve upon the carbon offsetting strategy.

Any performance issues identified as part of DC's Contractor Performance Evaluation system must be addressed by the Contractor in a timely fashion. If serious performance concerns are raised, the Contractor may be considered as unqualified and their agreement may be terminated. DC reserves the right to exercise this option as is deemed proper and/or necessary.

### **C.7 DC Responsibilities and Support**

DC will assign a Project Authority to handle incoming and outgoing requests and correspondence with the Contractor. The Project Authority will:

- a) Act as a vendor relationship manager with the Contractor and ensure projects/tasks are completed on time, within budget, and as scoped.
- b) Provide relevant information.
- c) Provide feedback and approval of the project plan (if required).
- d) Interface with the Contractor including the set-up of regular status calls and project specific meetings/teleconferences, as needed.
- e) Provide Contractor performance reviews to ensure that the Contractor is supplying the expected quality of deliverables outlined in the Contract.

### **C.8 Contractor Responsibilities**

The Contractor will designate a single point of contact, (the "Account Manager"). The Account Manager will act as the Contractor's client relationship partner and overall client service partner. The Contractor will provide a secondary contact to fill in for the Account Manager should they be away or removed from DC's account.

### **C.9 Risks and Constraints**

All created material, data, content and so on will be the property of DC. The Contractor shall provide and return all information to DC at the end of the contract term.

The Contractor will be available to provide the Services during standard business hours (8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Pacific Time).

#### **C.10 Reporting and Communication**

DC may request reporting from the Contractor on an as and when basis as agreed upon between the Contractor and DC.

#### **C.11 Personnel Replacement**

The Contractor is required to advise DC's Project Authority two (2) weeks in advance of any change to the Account Manager or key personnel. If replacement is required, the Contractor is responsible for providing, in a timely manner, a replacement with equivalent or greater experience.

## SECTION D – MANDATORY CRITERIA QUESTIONNAIRE

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Full compliance with mandatory criteria is required in order for proposals to be further evaluated.

### D.1 Mandatory Requirements

D.1.1 The proponent must provide carbon offset projects located in Canada.

Are you able to comply with this requirement?

Yes

No

D.1.2 The proponent must have been established as a legal business for at least one (1) year.

Are you able to comply with this requirement?

Yes

No

## **SECTION E – DESIRABLE CRITERIA QUESTIONNAIRE**

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Proponent should respond to the questions below clearly and concisely. If the proponent is attaching documents as part of their response to a specific question, the proponent should reference the attachments in their response. Please use Arial 11pt or another similar font.

### **E.1 Company Background and Overview**

#### **E.1.1 Company Background and Overview**

Provide a brief overview of your organization including the following information:

- a) Company history, ownership, structure and office location(s) and the number of employees.
- b) Composition and competencies of the executive management team (i.e., org. chart).
- c) Services and products offered, including areas of specialization.
- d) Experience in the travel / tourism or similar industry.
- e) Experience in servicing Canadian Federal Departments, Canadian Crown corporations, or a similarly structured organization in the past 24 months.

Maximum Marks Available – 15%

Response should be limited to three (3) pages (excluding organizational chart).

#### **E.1.2 Additional Company Background**

- a) Do you have any Russian or Belarusian participation in the governance structure of your organization – either as an investor or on your Board of Directors?
  - o If yes, of what significance?
- b) Are you currently undertaking any work for an enterprise based in Russia or Belarus?
  - o If yes, of what significance to your overall operation?

Maximum Marks Available – unweighted

Response should be limited to half (1/2) a page or less.

### **E.2 Business / Technical Requirements**

**E.2.1** Identify the Account Manager and any key personnel to be assigned to DC's account and include the following information:

- a) Resumes which include relevant experience, education, credentials, areas of expertise and any relevant awards/industry recognition received.
- b) Explain how you will ensure that DC receives the same level of service, or better if the Account Manager were to leave the organization or be removed from DC's account.

Maximum marks available: 5%

Maximum response length: One (1) page excluding resumes.

**E.2.2** Describe your organization's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies and approach. Provide two (2) recent examples of how you applied DEI to your work with your clients and how you supported them by using this framework. Include a copy of your DEI policies or guidelines.

Maximum marks available: 10%

Maximum response length: Two (2) pages excluding the policies and guidelines.

E.2.3 For Informational Purposes Only: Proponents are requested to indicate whether they have the capability to provide services in French and English. Place an “X” in the relevant boxes to indicate which languages you can provide the services in.

Language	Indicate (“X”)
French	
English	

Maximum Marks Available – unweighted

E.2.4 Provide your organization’s carbon offset offerings in the following categories

- a. Nature-based offset projects in Canada involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- b. Other nature-based offset projects in Canada.
- c. Nature-based offset projects in the United States involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- d. Other nature-based offset projects in the United States.
- e. Nature-based offset projects in other countries which generate additional environmental, social and economic benefits for society, beyond reducing or sequestering GHG emissions.
- f. Other (i.e. non-nature based) offset projects in Canada involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- g. Other offset projects in Canada.
- h. Other offset projects in the United States involving, owned, or supported by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- i. Other offset projects in the United States.
- j. Other offset projects in other countries which generate additional environmental, social and economic benefits for the society, beyond reducing or sequestering GHG emissions.

Maximum marks available: 40%  
Maximum response length: none.

E.2.5 Provide up to three (3) case studies for past projects/ or project your team has delivered for a Canada based client. Include details on the challenge or opportunity put forward, the solution provided and the process to arrive at that solution.

Maximum marks available: 10%  
Maximum response length: none.

E.2.6 Please describe how your offset projects align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Maximum marks available: 10%  
Maximum response length: none.

E.2.7 Please describe how your company engages with stakeholders, including local communities impacted by the projects.

Maximum marks available: 5%  
 Maximum response length: none.

E.2.8 Please describe your company's commitment to sustainability beyond just selling carbon offsets.

Maximum marks available: 5%  
 Maximum response length: none.

**E.3 Weighting Table for Reference**

The following table is provided as a reference to illustrate how each question is scored and weighted.

<b>Desirable Criteria Question #</b>	<b>Weighting per Question</b>	<b>Section Weighting per Question</b>	<b>Example Proponent Score</b>	<b>Example Proponent Weighted Score</b>
E.1.1	15%	11.25%	5/5	11.25%
E.1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
E.2.1	5%	3.75%	4/5	3%
E.2.2	10%	7.50%	3/5	4.50%
E.2.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
E.2.4	40%	30%	4/5	24%
E.2.5	10%	7.50%	5/5	10.50%
E.2.6	10%	7.50%	3/5	4.50%
E.2.7	5%	3.75%	2/5	1.5%
E.2.8	5%	3.75%	4/5	3%
<b>Example Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>29/40</b>	<b>62.25%</b>
<b>A score of 45% (i.e., 60% of the 75%) or higher is required to be eligible to advance to the next stage of evaluations.</b>				



## SECTION F – PRICING

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Proponents must submit their pricing proposal in a separate file from the rest of their response. In the pricing submission, reference the RFSQ# DC-2024-AK-01 along with company information.

Proponents are encouraged to present a best value for cost when submitting all pricing requests, while taking into consideration all of the requirements in this RFSQ and as demonstrated through their response.

When evaluating proposed pricing, DC may consider the total cost of ownership associated with the product or service over its lifetime including, but not limited to, acquisition cost, staffing resources, training, installation, support, maintenance, transportation and logistics, operating costs, and disposal costs. This may also include transition, migration or integration costs which DC would be expected to pay. There should be no hidden costs which DC discovers at the end of the term.

DC does not make a commitment or guarantee of any dollar value or volume of business for any proponent.

All prices will be held, at minimum, for the first year of the agreement.

All prices should be quoted in the **Canadian** dollars, excluding taxes.

### F.1 Proposed Pricing Detail

Item	Location (CA/US/Other)	Type of Credit	Indigenous owned/sponsored	Price (\$CA/tonneCO2e)	Registry
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
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**F.2 Payment Discounts**

DC’s standard payment terms are Net 30 days upon receiving an invoice, with the required project and billing information, and after the services have been rendered or goods received. There may be certain times of the year when DC may be able to accelerate payments. For proponents who are able to offer a term where DC may elect to take the discount when possible, this alternative would be considered.

Indicate your payment terms and explain any early payment discounts available to DC.

**F.3 Pricing Strategies**

DC may be open to other pricing strategies, incentives, volume discounts or other offerings (e.g., rebates, single volume purchase, credit for returnable product, etc.) that would benefit DC. DC, at its sole discretion, may or may not review or consider any such offerings that are proposed.

Please indicate any other pricing strategies that your company may be willing to discuss with DC.

## SECTION G – RFSQ PROCESS AND TERMS

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### G.1 RFSQ Process Schedule

The schedule for the proponent selection process is as follows:

Intent to Submit (*)	February 7, 2024, 14:00 hours PT
Deadline for Questions	January 30, 2024, 14:00 hours PT
<b>Closing Date and Time</b>	<b>February 15, 2024, 14:00 hours PT</b>
DC will endeavour to notify all proponents of its selection by:	March 2024
Timeframe for Negotiations (if required)	5 days following notification by DC

Note: The schedule is subject to change at DC's sole discretion.

**(\* Please note the intent to submit is not a disqualifying criteria. If you miss the above date, you can still submit your proposal within the closing date.**

### G.2 Interpretation of the RFSQ

If a proponent is in doubt as to the intended meaning of any part of this RFSQ or finds errors, omissions, discrepancies or ambiguities, questions may be submitted and, if deemed necessary by DC, an amendment to the RFSQ may be issued.

It is the proponent's responsibility to understand all aspects of the RFSQ requirements. Should the proponent require any further details to have a clear and comprehensive understanding, it is the proponent's responsibility to obtain clarification before submitting a proposal.

### G.3 Inquiries and Communication

No individual other than the designated Contracting Authority identified on the RFSQ cover is authorized by DC to comment on any portion of this RFSQ or the requirements described in this RFSQ. DC will not be bound by, and the proponent agrees not to rely upon, any information given or statements made by persons other than the designated DC Contracting Authority.

Making inquiries to an unauthorized person or any attempt to influence the outcome of this process by contacting DC employees (other than the Contracting Authority), the Board of Directors or government officials will result in immediate disqualification and may result in exclusion from future competitions.

### G.4 Accuracy of Information

While the information set out, or referred to, in this RFSQ has been prepared and included in good faith, DC does not give any representation or warranty whatsoever that it is all-inclusive or that it is free of error. Some items may change at any time due to business circumstances.

### G.5 Amendments/Addendums

Information, instructions, modifications, and/or questions and answers may be incorporated by DC in an amendment/addendum to the RFSQ. If this RFSQ was posted on the Government of Canada [Canadabuys.canada.ca](https://canadabuys.canada.ca) website (CanadaBuys), DC may post amendments/addendums to CanadaBuys, provide amendments/addendums to all proponents who received an invitation, or provide amendments/addendums to all proponents who submitted an Intent to Submit a proposal.

It is the proponent's responsibility to regularly review [Canadabuys.canada.ca](https://canadabuys.canada.ca) for amendments/addendums to the RFSQ that DC in its discretion may post prior to Closing Time. Such amendments/addendums may contain important information, including significant changes to this RFSQ. Proponents are responsible for reviewing all amendments/addendums and confirm that all amendments/addendums issued have been read and included in the Proponent's response (see Appendix 3).

**G.6 Modification and Withdrawal**

Modifications to, or withdrawals of, a submitted RFSQ will be accepted by DC by e-mail notice provided that such e-mail is received by DC before the Closing Time. Modifications or additional information received after the Closing Time will not be accepted except upon invitation and request from the Contracting Authority.

**G.7 Period of Validity**

Proposals must remain open for acceptance for a period of not less than one hundred and twenty (120) days from the Closing Time.

**G.8 Proposal Expenses**

All costs, including travel, incurred by the proponent in the preparation of its proposal, participation in this RFSQ, presentations, demonstrations, or the negotiation of any resulting contract, will be the sole responsibility of the proponent and will not be reimbursed by DC, unless otherwise indicated. All such costs are taken at the sole risk of the proponent. By participating in this RFSQ, the proponent agrees to absolve the DC of any responsibility for the same.

**G.9 Language**

Proposals may be submitted in either French or English. All other steps and documents in the process are to be addressed and submitted in English (Pricing, Contract, Contract Negotiations, Debriefings, e-mail communication, etc.)

**G.10 Contract Negotiations**

The DC reserves the right to negotiate contract scope and terms with the proponent whose expertise, experience, vision and reputation are judged to best serve the interests of the DC, hereafter the "Preferred Proponent". Proponents are cautioned not to assume that the lowest priced proposal will result in a contract award.

The DC will enter into discussions and negotiations with the Preferred Proponent to reach agreement on the final terms of the Agreement. Negotiations may include requests by DC for supplementary information from the proponent to verify, clarify or supplement the information provided in its proposal or confirm the conclusions reached in the evaluation and may include requests by DC for improved pricing from the proponent.

Concurrent Negotiations: The top ranked proponents, as established under the evaluation, will be invited to enter into contract negotiations with DC. DC intends to conduct negotiations within the Timeframe for Negotiations.

At any point in the Timeframe for Negotiations, DC may elect to unilaterally terminate one or more negotiation(s). Final selection of one or more proponents will be determined following DC's receipt of Best and Final Offers. Final selection will be based upon best overall value to DC. There will be no legally binding relationship created with any proponent prior to the execution of a written agreement.

**G.11 Contract Award**

If a contract is subsequently negotiated and awarded to a proponent as a result of this RFSQ process;

- any such agreement will commence upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of the DC and the successful proponent; and
- may include, but not be limited to, the general contract terms contained in Appendix 5.

**G.12 Debriefing**

Upon request, and at DC’s sole discretion, DC will only provide a debriefing to proponents who met or exceeded the minimum Threshold or Shortlist. All requests must be in writing to the DC Contracting Authority and should be made within thirty (30) days of notification of award. The intent of the debriefing information session is to aid the proponent in presenting a stronger proposal in subsequent procurement opportunities. Any debriefing provided is not for the purpose of providing an opportunity to challenge the procurement process.

**G.13 Material Circumstances**

A material circumstance means any circumstance or relationship which may lead to an unfair advantage including but not limited to: being associated to or related to a DC employee or Board member of DC; having access to information not available to other proponents; communicating with any unauthorized person with respect to the RFSQ process; engaging in any action which constrains or limits the ability of another proponent to submit a proposal for the goods or services herein; providing a gift or benefit to a DC employee or Board member; or engaging in conduct that compromises or could be seen to compromise the integrity of the RFSQ process (each a “Material Circumstance”).

All Material Circumstances (as defined above) must be disclosed in a proposal. Where DC determines, in its discretion, that a Material Circumstance gives rise to a conflict of interest that DC considers in its opinion would give rise to unfair advantage in the RFSQ process, or would otherwise prejudice the integrity of the RFSQ process, DC may eliminate the proposal from consideration.

**G.14 Proponents Not to Promote Their Interest**

Proponents must not make any public comment, respond to questions in a public forum or carry out any activities to publicly promote or advertise their interest in this opportunity.

**G.15 Confidentiality**

DC recognizes the proprietary nature of information that may be contained in response to this RFSQ. Proponents must clearly mark and identify those areas of their proposals which contain confidential information. DC will not use or disclose such confidential information, except for the purposes of evaluating the proposals submitted under this RFSQ, as may be required by law, including but not limited to the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act*, or to the DC’s professional advisors on a confidential and need to know basis.

Proponents shall keep confidential all information received from DC and other information developed for DC in connection with this competition. Proponents shall not use DC’s confidential information except as required to develop a proposal and presentation in response to this RFSQ.

Except as required by law, DC will not disclose or publish the identity of proponents, nor reveal in any way the substantive information and financial terms contained in any proposal. Only the name of the Contractor will be revealed at the conclusion of the process and only after an agreement has been fully executed by the contracting parties.

**G.16 Publicity**

Proponents must not refer, expressly or by implication, to DC, or to this competition, in any advertising or other publicity release unless otherwise approved in advance and in writing by the Contracting Authority.

**G.17 No Collusion**

By submitting a proposal the proponent represents that its proposal has been prepared without collusion or fraud and in fair competition with proposals from other proponents.

**G.18 Law**

This RFSQ process and any subsequent agreement will be governed by the laws of the Province of British Columbia and any dispute will be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts of British Columbia and all applicable federal laws.

**G.19 Indemnities**

The proponent shall be responsible for and shall indemnify DC from all claims, loss and damages that relate to or arise out of errors, omissions or negligent acts of the proponent, its employees or agents associated with this RFSQ process and all costs associated with those claims, loss and damages.

**G.20 Rights of the Destination Canada**

In addition, DC reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to:

- G.20.1 accept any proposal in whole or in part, with the exception of proposals that fail to comply with mandatory criteria, whether or not it is the lowest priced proposal and without prior negotiation;
- G.20.2 reject any, all or part of any proposal that:
  - i. is incomplete, obscure, irregular or unrealistic;
  - ii. fails to meet the objective of the RFSQ;
  - iii. fails or omits any mandatory information; or
  - iv. is non-compliant with any requirement of this request;
- G.20.3 not accept any deviations from the stated terms and conditions;
- G.20.4 terminate the process at any time and/or re-issue this RFSQ at any time;
- G.20.5 obtain information from the proponents to seek clarification or to verify any or all information provided by the proponent at any time throughout this RFSQ process;
- G.20.6 contact references;
- G.20.7 enter into negotiations with any proponent who has submitted a compliant proposal, with the goal to establish an agreement acceptable to DC;
- G.20.8 incorporate all, or any portion of the Statement of Work, the RFSQ, and the successful proponent's proposal into a resulting contract document;
- G.20.9 to make an award in whole or in part, including the right to select and contract with more than the stated maximum number of top-ranked proponents, to meet the requirements of the RFSQ;
- G.20.10 not enter into any contract at all with any proponents responding to this RFSQ.

## **SECTION H – ROSTER AND STANDING OFFER AGREEMENT CONDITIONS**

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The conditions set out in this Section regarding the use of the Roster and SOAs are subject to change from time to time as DC may deem necessary, without notice to the Contractors on the Roster.

1. The criteria for selecting a Contractor from the Roster for each project or task will vary, depending upon DC's requirements.
2. DC reserves the right to engage any Contractor in the Roster on an "as, if and when requested" basis and may be contacted directly or asked to compete on opportunities for the provision of services.
3. Any Contractor selected to provide services may be required to execute a statement of work that will be governed by the SOA.
4. If Contractors are asked to compete on opportunities, DC may not necessarily select the Contractor offering the lowest price, and may also evaluate qualifications or other criteria required for a specific project.
5. Contractors should, during the period that the SOA is in effect, advise DC of any material changes to the information contained in their response.
6. DC has no obligation to:
  - a. inquire as to the availability of substitute key personnel when advised by a Contractor that the key personnel named on the SOA is not available for a particular project;
  - b. evaluate or accept any substitute key personnel proposed by a Contractor;
  - c. enter into a statement of work with any one or more Contractor; or
  - d. invite any one or more Contractor to participate in competitive processes for a statement of work.
7. DC reserves the right to utilize vendors that are not on the Roster.
8. DC may, from time to time, conduct pre-qualification evaluations with alternative proponents that did not participate in this competition, and/or with proponents that were not selected in previous pre-qualifications. As a result, DC may, solely in its discretion, add alternative proponents to the existing Roster and increase the number of proponents at any time during the Roster term. There is no assurance that DC will require any future additions to the Roster or will accept any requests for inclusion.
9. DC expects requirements and future evaluations will stay materially the same as the initial pre-qualification process. However, there may be variations depending on DC's requirements at that time. The basis for future pre-qualification requirements and evaluations will be at DC's sole discretion.
10. DC reserves the right to remove a Contractor from the Roster for any reason that DC deems to have a material influence on the ability of the Contractor to satisfactorily provide DC with the goods or services under the Roster.

**SECTION I: LIST OF APPENDICES**

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Proponents must submit Appendices 1 through 4 with their proposal.

<b>APPENDIX</b>	<b>FILE NAME</b>
1	Proponent Information and Acknowledgement Form
2	Material Circumstances Disclosure Form
3	Amendments
4	Declaration of Sub-Contractors
5	General Contract Terms



**APPENDIX 1: PROPONENT INFORMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

1. PROPONENT INFORMATION

- a) Company Information - For identification and information purposes only, provide the following information about your company:

Complete legal company name and address:	
Primary business and length of time business established:	
Number of direct employees:	
Primary contact for the RFSQ (name title, phone number and e-mail):	

- b) Business Structure – For identification and information purposes only, provide the following information about your company:

- Sole Proprietorship
- Partnership
- Corporation
- Other

- i. Where is your business registered or incorporated? \_\_\_\_\_. Please provide a copy of the registration, certificate of incorporation or other similar document showing your current registration status.
- ii. If your business is a Partnership please list all partners and the percentage of units they hold in the partnership (including beneficial owners):

Name of:	% of units held
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Registered Owner;</li> <li>● Beneficial Owner (if applicable)</li> </ul>	

- iii. If your business is a Corporation please advise if it is a:
- Public Corporation; or
  - Private Corporation
- iv. Please list the individuals or entities that Control the Corporation:

Name of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered Owner;</li> <li>• Beneficial Owner (if applicable)</li> </ul>	% of shares held

v. **Verification of Financial Stability**

Provide copies of Financial Statements for the last three (3) years, 2020, 2021, 2022. The proponent may submit other assurances of corporate and financial stability that provide sufficient evidence of their financial capability to deliver the services, such as a letter of good financial standing from the proponent's bank and/or other assurances of corporate and financial stability.

c) **Proponent Diversity**

A Diverse Supplier is one whose business is at least 51% owned and operated by an underrepresented group.

Do you identify as a Diverse Supplier (as per the definition above)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please select all that apply:

- 2SLGBTQI+
- Indigenous
- Persons with disabilities
- Veteran
- Visible Minority
- Women
- Other, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold any third party certification(s)?

- Yes, please list and provide a copy of each:
- No, please tell us what barriers, if any, you are experiencing to obtain third party certification?

d) **Environmental Sustainability**

Do you hold any third party certification(s)?

- Yes, please list and provide a copy of each:
- No

e) Policies/Guidelines

Provide a copy of your anti-fraud prevention policy or guidelines.

Provide a copy of your diversity, equity and inclusion policy or guidelines.

Provide a copy of your data privacy and data storage policy or guidelines.

2. REFERENCES

List three customers with similar requirements to those described in this RFSQ who we may contact as references. For each reference include the name of the organization, key contact information (name, title, address, phone, e-mail), and a brief description of the service provided/performed. Proponent agrees that DC may contact any of these references. It is requested that proponents refrain from using DC as a reference in their proposal.

**Reference #1:**

Client Organization:	
Contact Person:	
Street Address:	
Telephone #:	
Email Address:	
Description of Services:	

**Reference #2:**

Client Organization:	
Contact Person:	
Street Address:	
Telephone #:	
Email Address:	
Description of Services:	

**Reference #3:**

Client Organization:	
Contact Person:	
Street Address:	
Telephone #:	
Email Address:	
Description of Services:	

3. PROPONENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The proponent agrees that the information provided in their proposal is accurate and declares that he/she/they is a duly authorized signing authority with the capacity to commit his/her firm/company to the provisions contained herein. By signing below, the proponent specifically acknowledges that it has read, understood and agrees to the terms of this RFSQ.

Executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Authorized Signature:

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Printed Name:

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Title/Position:

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Company Name:

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City:

---

Address:

---

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

---

E-mail Address:

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## APPENDIX 2: MATERIAL CIRCUMSTANCES DISCLOSURE FORM

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### MATERIAL CIRCUMSTANCE:

DC requires proponents to disclose all Material Circumstances (as defined in G.13) as an attachment to their proposal.

Check ONE:

- No, there are no Material Circumstances to disclose; OR
  
- Yes, there is/are one or more Material Circumstance(s) to disclose and a disclosure statement is attached.

### APPENDIX 3: AMENDMENTS

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Please confirm that any amendments and addenda to this RFSQ issued have been read and included in proponent response. List the amendments and addenda included in the response (if applicable).

Amendment/Addendum No.:	Dated:	# of Pages:
Amendment/Addendum No.:	Dated:	# of Pages:
Amendment/Addendum No.:	Dated:	# of Pages:
Amendment/Addendum No.:	Dated:	# of Pages:

**APPENDIX 4: DECLARATION OF SUB-CONTRACTORS**

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- The goods and or services in this proposal will be provided solely by the company named in Appendix 1 – Proponent Information and Acknowledgement Form.
- Sub-contractors will be used to provide the goods and or services described in this proposal.

Companies called on as Sub-Contractors to collaborate in the execution of the proposed services.

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Name:

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Contact Person:	Title:
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Phone Number:

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E-mail Address:

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Address:

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City:	Province:	Postal Code:
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Description of services provided:

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Quality control measures and contract resolution processes:

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% of services the Sub-Contractor will be providing: \_\_\_\_\_%

## APPENDIX 5: GENERAL CONTRACT TERMS

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The following general terms may be required by DC in order to be awarded the Work under this RFSQ. Specific language for each of these terms will be negotiated between the parties:

1. Non-exclusive contract;
2. Contract term as provided in the RFSQ;
3. The Contractor will designate key personnel assigned to DC under the contract who cannot be changed without the approval of DC;
4. Dedicated time commitments (full time equivalent basis) on a monthly or annual basis to DC work, if applicable;
5. Service levels for typical work (e.g., commitments for timing from planning stages to campaign launch);
6. All deliverables are subject to acceptance by DC.
7. All intellectual property created by the Contractor will be the property of DC, including the waiver of any moral rights. Contractor will certify that the intellectual property is delivered free from encumbrances and in compliance with all applicable laws;
8. Contractor will undertake to ensure that all campaigns and other activities conducted on behalf of DC in the Contractor's market are done in compliance with applicable laws, including all applicable privacy, data protection and cyber security laws;
9. Contractor, including their sub-contractors, will indemnify DC for any breach of the contract, in particular claims relating to breach of privacy, third party intellectual property claims, compliance with laws, etc.;
10. Contractor will maintain the appropriate insurance and include DC as an additional insured on its general commercial liability insurance;
11. Fees to be paid on the basis of work delivered, not in advance;
12. All expenses incurred by the Contractor to be passed through to DC without markup, including media placements;
13. Confidentiality and security clauses to be included;
14. DC shall be entitled to terminate for convenience upon 30 days written notice and upon payment for any work completed or committed to the date of termination. Where work has been pre-paid, DC shall be entitled to a pro-rata return of funds on termination. If DC terminates the contract or a particular work order or statement of work for breach of contract, then DC is not required to pay for work not accepted by DC;
15. DC approval required prior to Contractor sub-contracting all or part of the work or assigning the contract;
16. Contract to be governed by the laws of British Columbia and the federal laws of Canada; and
17. Dispute resolution: senior management intervention followed by binding arbitration to be held in Vancouver, BC in accordance with the rules of the British Columbia International Commercial Arbitration Centre.