

**INNOVATION, SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CANADA (ISED)
ISED209960**

ADVANCE CONTRACT AWARD NOTICE (ACAN)

An Advance Contract Award Notice (ACAN) allows departments and agencies to post a notice, for no less than fifteen calendar days, indicating to the supplier community that it intends to award a good, service or construction contract to a pre-identified contractor. If no other supplier submits, during the fifteen calendar day posting period, a statement of capabilities that meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the competitive requirements of the government's contracting policy have been met. Following notification to suppliers not successful in demonstrating that their statement of capabilities meets the requirements set out in the ACAN, the contract may then be awarded using the Treasury Board's electronic bidding authorities.

If other potential suppliers submit statements of capabilities during the fifteen calendar day posting period, and meet the requirements set out in the ACAN, the department or agency must proceed to a full tendering process on either the government's electronic tendering service or through traditional means, in order to award the contract.

Contracting Officer:

Name: Davis Opie

Telephone Number: (613) 324-9165

E-mail: davis.opie@ised-isde.gc.ca

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE:

Project Blue – Critical Minerals Market Intelligence Subscription

BACKGROUND

Industry Sector's Advanced Manufacturing and Materials Industries Directorate (AMMID) is responsible for policy research, guidance for Strategic Innovation Fund project applications, and developing federal policy positions for a broad suite of critical minerals. A market intelligence service is required to inform these policy and program decisions with the latest information in some relatively niche applications that cover advanced manufacturing, information and communications technologies, and clean technologies value chains as they relate to Canadian resources and manufacturers.

These market intelligence services provide monthly updated information on supply and demand forecasts, mergers and acquisitions in the industry, and tailored information for minerals and metals deemed critical by Canada and its international allies.

The Strategic Innovation Fund was allotted 1.5B dollars through Budget 2022 for processing, manufacturing, and recycling of critical minerals. Applications to the Fund require thorough analysis for the demand requirements, comparisons with peer firms, and strategic alignment with the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy.

Further, as the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy develops and is implemented, the list of Canada's critical minerals may evolve. This product will inform the analysis for the addition/removal of minerals to the official list as markets evolve over time.

REQUIREMENTS/RESULTS:

- Project Blue will provide data, analysis, and forecasts to provide senior management with the most up-to-date information on the current and future demand, supply, and prices of critical and battery raw materials.
- ISED and NRCan will receive this intelligence through electronic market reports, consulting, and their Proxima online portal (e.g., trade, asset, company, and country information).
- Project Blue will provide market intelligence with regular updates for the following mineral commodities
 - Critical minerals monthly general information
 - Antimony Market Service
 - Fluorspar Market Service
 - Gallium Market Service
 - Magnesium Market Service
 - Molybdenum Market Service
 - Scandium Market Service
 - Tantalum Market Service
 - Tin Market Service
 - Titanium Market Service
 - Tungsten Market Service

IDENTIFICATION OF CONTRACTOR

Name of Contractor: Project Blue
Address: 71-75 Shelton Street, Covent Garden
City: London, UK
Postal Code: WC2H 9JQ

REASON FOR AWARDING CONTRACT TO THIS CONTRACTOR

Project Blue is an exclusive provider of critical materials and energy transition market intelligence. It is a highly-specialized product, offering market intelligence and market tracking related to smaller market commodities that are not covered by other data providers. Through access to this resource, the Industry Sector is able to get coverage for a broad suite of critical minerals that will be prioritized under the Canadian Critical Minerals Strategy. Project Blue is unique in its ability to provide monthly market analysis on more than 30 critical minerals. In addition, Project Blue remains the only company that is providing monthly update market critical minerals and transition materials and specialized reports for critical minerals such as antimony and fluorspar. These minerals are classified as critical by Canada and other countries and are important to new technologies such as batteries and other specialized materials (e.g., semiconductors, special alloys).

MINIMUM ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

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

- A. Significant experience in providing market intelligence for critical minerals, supply and demand forecasting, and information on individual firms on the global market.
- B. Ability to provide monthly updates and market reports for the following minerals
 - Antimony
 - Fluorspar
 - Gallium
 - Magnesium
 - Molybdenum
 - Scandium
 - Tantalum
 - Tin
 - Titanium
 - Tungsten
- C. Must be able to provide access to market intelligence across multiple Departments with unrestricted flow of information within the federal government.
- D. Must provide the market intelligence in one or both of Canada's official languages

PERIOD AND ESTIMATED COST OF THE CONTRACT

The period of the contract will be for one year, from April 1, 2024 until March 31, 2025. The total amount of the contract is estimated to be up to \$155,000.00 USD (taxes not applicable).

APPLICABLE TRADE AGREEMENTS AND APPLICABLE LIMITED TENDERING REASONS

- World Trade Organization – Agreement on Government Procurement
- Canadian Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
- Canada-Chile FTA
- Canada-Columbia FTA
- Canada-Panama FTA
- Canada-Peru FTA
- Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership
- Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
- Canada-Honduras FTA
- Canada-Korea FTA
- Canada-Ukraine FTA

OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Project Blue would retain all rights and licenses related to the products produced under this arrangement. Both parties acknowledge that Project Blue will retain all intellectual property rights, unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

CLOSING DATE AND TIME FOR WRITTEN SUPPLIER RESPONSES CHALLENGING THIS REQUIREMENT IS FEBRUARY 22, 2024

You are hereby notified that the government intends to solicit a bid and negotiate with the firm identified above.

If you wish to submit a written response showing that you are capable of meeting this requirement, it must be done not later than the closing date and time. As it is intended to proceed in a timely manner, responses received after the closing date will not be considered. The Crown reserves the right not to open this procurement to competition.

Responses received on or before the closing date will be considered solely for the purpose of deciding whether or not to conduct a competitive procurement. Information provided will be used by the Crown for technical evaluation purposes only and is not to be construed as a competitive solicitation. Your written response must provide sufficient evidence (e.g. specifications, technical data, drawings, or any other proof) that clearly demonstrates that your product or service is capable of fulfilling this requirement.

Suppliers that have submitted a response will be notified in writing of ISED's decision to continue with the non-competitive procurement or to compete the requirement.

Should you have any questions concerning this requirement, contact the contracting officer identified above. The Industry file number, the contracting officer's name and the closing date of the ACAN must appear on the outside of the envelope in block letters on the covering page.

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement. Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada.