

Questions and Answers

Solicitation No.: J072737/A

Date: 2024-06-17

Q1: Please confirm if there is currently, or has been within the past 6 months, any contracted resource performing the services described within the RFP? If so, please identify the incumbent and contract value?

A1: A similar contract was originally awarded to Veritaaq Technology House Inc. (now Experis Canada Inc.) by Statistics Canada in August 2022 with a total amended value of \$424,125.00 (applicable taxes extra). The contract was expired on March 31, 2024.

Q2: MC1 and RC2 requires bidders to demonstrate they have billed resources in the A.1 Application/Software Architect category. As different organizations use different resource categories for similar roles, please confirm that bidders can utilize billed days executed under a different resource category as long as the bidder demonstrates mapping to at least 70% of the tasks associated with the A.1 Application/Software Architect category.

A2: Yes, the bidder can use billed days executed under a different TBIPS category but must make sure mapping at least 70% of the tasks associated with the A.1 Application/Software Architect category.

Q3: RC1 is asking bidders to demonstrate it has been awarded contract(s) for Public Sector clients of 10,000 employees or more. Given that Statistics Canada only has approximately 6,200 employees, this requirement is unnecessarily restrictive and doesn't align with the Statement of Work. Would the Crown reduce this requirement to organizations of 5,000 or more employees?

A3: The initial size requirements of 10,000 employees apply to Corporations only, not for public sector clients. However, we decided to accept the suggestion and reduce the number to 5,000. The following criteria are modified accordingly:

- Rated Corporate Criteria: RC1
- Mandatory Resource Criteria: MR4, MR8, MR9, MR10

Q4: Please confirm if bidders are to submit two (2) Level 3 A.1 Application/Software Architects at the time of bid submission.

A4: No. To align with the most recent changes to professional services contracting that regulated by PSPC, the evaluation of resources' resumes will no longer be an acceptable practice to evaluate a vendor's capacity to deliver the requirements. Instead, departments will be required to evaluate a vendor's corporate capacities and past performance on similar work. Resumes will only be used for evaluating TA proposals.

Q5: MC1 and RC2 state that "the tasks and activities completed by the Informatics Professional must closely align (70%) with the tasks and activities listed in the Statement of Work (see Annex A)". Please confirm if bidders can demonstrate A.1 Application/Software Architect Drupal experience, within applicable Drupal projects, however without having to show Drupal on every listed line item.

A5: No. This particular project requires extensive Drupal experience. If the experience that is demonstrated was not acquired on a system that is, for the majority, developed in Drupal, StatCan will not be able to consider that experience.

Q6: Please clarify whether international bids are accepted for RFP, or if it is limited to Canadian bidders only. Our agency is based in India, and we are interested in participating. If international bids are accepted, could you please let us know if there are any preferred locations or specific considerations for foreign bidders?

A6: Any prequalified TBIPS holders can submit their bid proposals, regardless the Canadian suppliers or international suppliers. However, the solicitation is subject to conditional PSIB, so Indigenous businesses within Canada have kind of priorities to be evaluated under the policy.

Please be noted that, unless otherwise stated, the Contractor's resource can telework by connecting remotely using StatCan provisioned hardware and software, however for the security reason, the personnel and devices must be located within the geographical boundaries of Canada.

Q7: MC1 and RC2 require bidders to demonstrate they have billed resources in the A.1 Application/ Software Architect category. As organizations (Federal and Provincial Governments) use different resource categories for similar roles, please confirm that bidders can utilize billed days executed under a different resource category (for a non-federal government client) as long as the bidder demonstrates mapping to at least 70% of the tasks associated with the A.1 Application/Software Architect category.

A7: Confirmed, so long as they are able to demonstrate mapping to at least 70% of the tasks associated with the TBIPS A.1 Application/Software Architect category.

Q8: "For the reference contract to be considered:

- 1. The reference contract must have been contracted directly with the bidder, and not with the bidder's subcontractor or affiliate.**
- 2. The contract must be with the Bidder directly and not with a partner or subcontractor of the Bidder or other entity that does not have an "at arm's length" with the Bidder."**

If the bidder has been a subcontractor to a prime, for over 5 years, where the bidder provided 100% of the services in those contracts, (demonstrating direct experience delivering on contracts of this scale and scope for GoC systems) and if the GoC clients can confirm in a reference, would qualify as MC1?

A8: Requesting reference contracts must have been contracted with the Bidder is to prevent bidders from improperly taking advantage of its subcontractor or affiliate's other experience. In this scenario, however, if the work was carried out directly by the bidder as a subcontractor to a prime, the bidder can use the subcontract as a reference to respond to MC1, as long as the bidder can fully justify the gained experience mapped at least 70% of the tasks associated with the A.1 Application/Software Architect category and met the billed day requirements.

Q9: Appendix B: Resource Evaluation Criteria - Mandatory Resource Requirements

Each mandatory requirement requires that there is a name and email address provided for the organization's contact responsible for the contract. Given that some of the projects may date back seven to ten years, it is possible that the individuals responsible for those contracts are no longer with the client organization. In such instances, please clarify the acceptable alternative methods

or additional information that can be provided to meet this requirement. Would it be acceptable to provide 3 professional references for each of the resources?

A9: If the individuals responsible for those contracts are no longer with the said client organization, they can still be references as long as they can prove that they were the main contacts responsible for the reference contract at that time.

Q10: MR7 states "A minimum of a three-year college diploma (Computer Science or other IT related fields)". We would like to request a revision of this requirement. Many accredited college programs across Canada offer two-year diplomas in Computer Science and other IT-related fields, which also provide comprehensive and relevant training. To accommodate a broader range of qualified candidates, please confirm if MR7 can be updated to accept both two-year and three-year college diplomas in Computer Science or related IT fields.

A10: No. Given the complexity of the project and the level of expertise and knowledge required to carry it out successfully, we are only considering a minimum of 3-year college diplomas or university degrees, in computer science or related IT fields.