

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION REGARDING
SOLDIER SURVIVABILITY: IN COMBAT AND BEYOND
HYBRID OUTLOOK DAY 2023
FOR
DIRECTOR SOLDIER SYSTEMS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT (DSSPM)**

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1) Background and Purpose of this Request for Information (RFI)

To support the Department of National Defense (DND), Director Soldier Systems Management (DSSPM) will be hosting a Hybrid Clothing and Personal Equipment Outlook Day. The hybrid nature of this event means it will take place both in person and online. This initiative aims to foster communication and engagement between industry and Government of Canada (GoC) clothing, personal equipment and human factors support teams. The anticipated outcome is to create a better contract environment from conception to delivery of critical items to our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, as well as support continued dialogue between industry and government to work towards consistent delivery of quality products.

The objectives of this RFI are:

- To invite supporting industries to identify their interest in attending the forthcoming Soldier Survivability Focused Hybrid Outlook Day on September 20th at 0900hrs as detailed in Annex A;
- To invite supporting industries to ask questions or request topics of interest to be covered at the event. This is not a guarantee that all requests will be accommodated.
- To ask supporting industries to respond to the questions in Section 7, ahead of the event. Answers provided by respondents will not be published or directly relayed during the Outlook Day.

2) Nature of Request for Information

This is not a bid solicitation. This RFI will not result in the award of any contract. As a result, potential suppliers of any goods or services described in this RFI or discussed during the Outlook Day should not reserve stock or facilities, nor allocate resources, as a result of any information contained in this RFI. Nor will this RFI result in the creation of any source list. Therefore, whether or not any potential supplier responds to this RFI will not preclude that supplier from participating in any future procurement.

The procurement of any of the goods and services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this RFI. This RFI is simply intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the matters described in this RFI.

3) Nature and Format of Responses Requested

Respondents are requested to provide their comments, concerns and, where applicable, alternative recommendations regarding how the requirements or objectives described in this RFI could be satisfied. Respondents are also invited to provide comments regarding the content, format and/or organization of any draft documents included in this RFI. Respondents should explain any assumptions they make in their responses.

4) Response Costs

Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred in responding to this RFI.

5) Treatment of Responses

Use of Responses: Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by Canada to develop or modify procurement strategies or documents, and be addressed in Outlook Day presentations. Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. However, if it deems appropriate, it could review responses received after the RFI closing date.

Review Team: A review team composed of representatives of the client (as applicable) and Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) will review the responses. Canada reserves the right to hire

any independent consultant, or use any Government resources that it considers necessary to review any response. Not all members of the review team will necessarily review all responses.

Confidentiality: Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary or confidential. Canada will handle the responses in accordance with the Access to Information Act.

Follow-up Activity: Canada may, in its discretion, contact any respondents to follow up with additional questions or for clarification of any aspect of a response.

6) Contents of this RFI

This RFI contains a draft agenda for the event. This document remains a work in progress and respondents must assume that speakers or subjects may be modified before the event is held. This RFI also contains specific questions addressed to the industry.

7) Question to Industry

- a. Based on the topics outlined in Annex A, are there any specific questions that your company would like addressed during the Outlook Day?
- b. Are there additional topics you want to see addressed during the Outlook Day? Topics suggested are not guaranteed to be discussed.
- c. Do you have a suggested method to continue engagement and discussion between the GoC and industry beyond this event? Ex, RFIs, Annual Outlook Day, etc.
- d. What kind of information or action does your company/industry require from the GoC that would support furthering clothing, equipment, 3D scanner and textile innovations?
- e. How would you like to receive anthropometric data to help in your design or bidding decisions?
- f. How has your company innovated your products and practices to be more inclusive?
- g. How has your company accommodated diverse body morphologies into your products and practices?
- h. Does your company provide female specific versions of your products? How are these products tailored for the female form?
- i. What are the impacts of Canadian Content for your company on responding to RFPs, providing innovative products, etc? Reference to the policy and guidelines can be found at the following link: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/supply-manual/section/3/130>
- j. What issues are you facing with meeting delivery times/schedules? Is there something DND can reasonably do to mitigate these issues?

- k. What issues is your company facing due to COVID-19? What are the long term implications as it relates to supporting the GoC?
- l. Is your company in the process of automating some of its manufacturing activity?
- m. Identify interest in attending the Soldier Survivability: in Combat and Beyond Hybrid Outlook Day. If yes, please provide the following information for each attendee:
 - i. Attendee's Name
 - ii. Company
 - iii. Position
 - iv. Email address

8) Format of Responses

Response to this RFI requires only an email response to the Contracting Authority. The email response should contain:

- i. this RFI number in email subject line;
- ii. the name, email address and telephone number of the respondent; and
- iii. the answers to the questions in Section 7 of this RFI;

9) Enquiries

Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada may not respond to enquiries in writing or by circulating answers to all potential suppliers. However, respondents with questions regarding this RFI may direct their enquiries to:

Contracting Authority: Michelle Brassard
E-mail Address: Michelle.brassard@forces.gc.ca

10) Submission of Responses

Time and Place for Submission of Responses: Industry members interested in providing a response should deliver it to the Contracting Authority identified above by June 30th 2023.

Responsibility for Timely Delivery: Each respondent is solely responsible for ensuring its response is delivered on time to the correct location.

Identification of Response: Each respondent should ensure that its name and email address, the solicitation number and the closing date appear in the response.

Annex A – Event Agenda

Soldier Survivability: in Combat & Beyond Hybrid Outlook Day 2023 Fall Session – September 20th 2023

Event Proposal

Concept:

The Director Soldier Systems Program Management (DSSPM) Soldier Survivability Hybrid Outlook Day aims to foster communication and engagement between supporting industry and Government of Canada (GoC) clothing, personal equipment and human factors support. The anticipated outcome is to create a better contract environment from conception to delivery of critical items to our Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, as well as support continued dialogue between industry and government to work towards consistent delivery of quality products.

Date:

September 20th 0900hrs EST

Location:

45 Boulevard Sacré-coeur, Gatineau QC, J8X 1C6
Room a-2412-C

OR

Join Zoom Meeting :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85332668550?pwd=d2JsS2hjdWYvUDliTDFsaTRLZDZudz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3266 8550

Passcode: 535076

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kerMW3JnR3>

For Q&A, participants can join at slido.com with #3169643 or this link:

<https://app.sli.do/event/qAN7Yfg2gimn4fKAsSNwy9>

Objectives:

- To ensure productive communication between GoC and Supporting Industry.
- Incorporate Industry comments into the execution of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process.
- Communicate program requirements and future developments
 - Short term CAF Plan (1FY) &
 - Medium Term CAF Plan (2-3 FY)
 - Major Initiatives CAF Plans (3+ FY).
- Gain a better understanding of the developments of Industry processes, limitations, strengths, ideas including: production timelines, and future directions.
- Address key questions that will be of interest to Industry.

Scope:

- Attendance by Operational Clothing, Personal Equipment, Textiles, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC), Directorate of Land Requirements (DLR), and Human Factors sections and their respective supporting industry members.
- Briefings from Capital Projects, Operational Clothing, Personal Equipment, Textiles, PSPC, DLR, and Human Factors sections to provide updates and answer outstanding questions.

Event Format:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hybrid Presentation/Webinar lead by a Moderator (MC). Speaker's presentations and short (~5 min) question period immediately following. See below draft agenda.
Proposed Agenda:	Duration: 0900-1300
9:00 - 9:20	<p>MC's Introduction – Lt Isaac Arbuckle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Etiquette Washroom Locations & Emergency Plan Brief agenda overview Introduction of DSSPM Director
9:20 - 09:35	<p>Director of DSSPM – Isabelle Latulippe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim of this event DSSPM Organization Current Business Environment Messages to industry 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
09:35 - 09:55	<p>Director Land Procurement (DLP) - Sean Burke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizational structure & purpose of DLP. 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
09:55 - 1015	BREAK
10:15 - 10:35	<p>Director of Land Requirements (DLR) –LCol Al Thomas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role & Organization Ongoing R&D projects Canadian Combat Clothing Ensemble Night Vision Modernization PPE Winter Mobility / Arctic Initiatives 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
10:35 - 10:55	<p>Director of Air Requirements (DAR) - TBD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation Summary TBC 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
11:55 - 11:10	<p>Director of Naval Requirements (DNR) – Mark Desmedt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of naval operational clothing & arctic clothing for naval operations in Canada 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
11:10 - 11:30	<p>DSSPM 5 Human Factors Cell – Emma Moon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What <i>are</i> human factors in Soldier Systems Outlining Initiatives in Soldier Survivability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive PPE Modernizing Anthropometry 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
11:30 – 12:30	LUNCH

12:30 – 12:50	DSSPM 2 Clothing - Daisy Marcellana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DSSPM 2 – Clothing program outline • 5 min Q&A per presenter, moderated by MC.
12:50 – 13:10	Logistik Unicorn (LU) - Karine Bibeau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the Logistik Opportunity Platform • 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
13:10 – 13:30	DSSPM 3 Soldier Personal Equipment - Andre Marc Dallaire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – helmets, soft and hard armour, vests • Load carriage – vest/pouches, small pack, rucksack • Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) – gloves, boots, coveralls and next generation • Floatation Device – hybrid vest, COTS general purpose vest • Winter mobility – skis, snowshoes, poles, toboggans • 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
12:30 – 13:50	DSSPM 8 SOCEM – Serge Cote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldier Operational Clothing and Equipment Modernization (SOCEM): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope ○ Iterative and agile approach to implement continuous improvements. ○ Progress update and upcoming work ○ Innovations sought from textile, clothing and personal equipment industry. • 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
13:50 – 14:10	BREAK
14:10 – 14:30	Canadian Textile Industry Association - Jeff Ayoub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Textile Industry Green Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overview of Development ○ Introduction to Canada’s Textile Green Label ○ Low carbon footprint global leadership ○ Manufacturing Capability Overview • 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
14:30 – 14:50	CTT Group – Valerio Izquierdo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability-related innovations in textile materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Innovations on new breathable membrane ○ Innovation on nature-based coating • Arctic climate R&D capacities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Equipment capacities for product development ○ Product innovations by CTT for the industry • 5 min Q&A, moderated by MC.
14:50 – 15:00	Closing Statements from MC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Q&A • Next steps • Thank you and acknowledgements

	15:00	END
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