

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation
T8080-230120

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.
01

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION DEMANDE DE RENSEIGNEMENTS

Proposal To: Transport Canada

We hereby offer to sell to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out herein, referred to herein or attached hereto, the goods and services listed herein and on any attached sheets at the price(s) set out therefore.

Proposition à : Transports Canada

Nous offrons par la présente de vendre à Sa Majesté la Reine du chef du Canada, aux conditions énoncées ou incluses par référence dans la présente et aux annexes ci-jointes, les biens et services énumérés ici et sur toute feuille ci-annexée, au(x) prix indique(s).

Comments - Commentaires

RETURN BIDS TO: RETOURNER LES SOUMISSIONS À :

By e-mail to: - Par courriel au :
jessica.hanschell@tc.gc.ca

Attention: - Attention :
Jessica Hanschell

Solicitation Closes - L'invitation prend fin

At - à :

2:00 PM - 14:00

On - le :

October 2, 2023

Time Zone - Fuseau Horaire :

EST

Title – Sujet Canine Certification Program for the Explosives Detection Dog and Handler Team	
Solicitation No. – N° de l'invitation T8080-230120	Date August 11, 2023
Solicitation Closes – L'invitation prend fin at – à 02 :00 PM on – le October 2, 2023	
F.O.B. - F.A.B. Plant-Usine: <input type="checkbox"/> Destination: <input type="checkbox"/> Other-Autre: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Address Inquiries to : - Adresser toutes questions à: Alexander Hmaidan jessica.hanschell@tc.gc.ca	Buyer Id – Id de l'acheteur
Telephone No. – N° de téléphone : 613-324-1856	FAX No. – N° de FAX
Destination – of Goods, Services, and Construction: Destination – des biens, services et construction :	

Instructions: Municipal taxes are not applicable. Unless otherwise specified herein all prices quoted must include all applicable Canadian customs duties, GST/HST, excise taxes and are to be delivered Delivery Duty Paid including all delivery charges to destination(s) as indicated. The amount of the Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax is to be shown as a separate item.

Instructions : Les taxes municipales ne s'appliquent pas. Sauf indication contraire, les prix indiqués doivent comprendre les droits de douane canadiens, la TPS/TVH et la taxe d'accise. Les biens doivent être livrés « rendu droits acquittés », tous frais de livraison compris, à la ou aux destinations indiquées. Le montant de la taxe sur les produits et services/taxe de vente harmonisée doit être indiqué séparément.

Delivery required Livraison exigée See herein - Voir aux présentes	Delivery offered Livraison proposée Not applicable - Sans objet
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur	
Person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print): La personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie) :	
Name - Nom	Title - Titre
Signature	Date

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)

Canine Certification Program for the Explosives Detection Dog and Handler Team

1- Purpose of the RFI

Transport Canada (TC) is releasing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit the interest of organizations or individuals' intent to conduct private industry canine certifications by applying TC's standardized certification methodology.

The objectives of this RFI is to:

1. Determine and gain an understanding on private industry interest to operate a business that will conduct TC recognized canine certifications to certify Explosive Detection Dog and Handler Teams (EDDHTs).
2. Communicate and share with parties' information to solicit interest of TC's proposed framework and requirements to conduct canine certifications for EDDHTs to conduct approved screening services recognized by TC.
3. Determine the interest of private industry (i.e., organizations or individuals) to manage and conduct TC recognized certifications of EDDHTs across/multiple locations Canada.

2- Background

In July 2021, TC implemented enhanced cargo screening requirements for cargo transported on transborder (U.S.) and international flights originating from Canadian designated airports. This new requirement meant a significant increase in cargo and mail screening, especially within the express / expedited cargo market.

To support the demand for screening capacity TC launched an EDDHT application process to qualify canine handlers / dogs for the screening of explosive threats to ensure the safety and security of civil aviation within the cargo secure supply chain. The application process has four primary steps:

(1) Registration (2) Security Plan Development (3) Certification (4) Final approval.

Approved EDDHTs are also required to submit to an annual recertification process. Both the certification and annual recertification processes are currently conducted by TC at their Lancaster facility in Ottawa.

TC is issuing this RFI to determine interest from industry to take on the role of conducting the certification and annual re-certification process on behalf of TC. All other steps of the application process would remain with TC.

The EDDHT certification regime entails a rigorous testing process to demonstrate that each applicant can detect a broad array of explosive threats. The testing process consists of a two-step validation process consisting of an odor recognition test (ORT) and an operational validation test (OVT). Both tests take approximately 3-5 hours to complete on any one handler.

3- Project Requirements

The organizations or individuals interested would have to consider meeting the following requirements:

Personnel Qualification Requirements

- An organizations or individuals would have to apply through TC's online portal:
 - To undergo personnel and commercial vetting/security checks, if successful
 - To gain access to the TC EDDHT standards and requirements to conduct certification testing, and
 - To get guidance or instructions for submission of certification data to TC.
- The organizations or individuals must be able to demonstrate relevant work experience and accomplishments in canine training, certification, testing and/or behavior analysis.
- Applicants must be a Canadian registered business with a business name and business number.
- The organizations or individuals must hold and maintain a valid Transportation Security Clearance (TSC) issued by TC. Please see the following website for information on how to apply <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/non-funding-programs/transportation-security-clearance-program/apply-transportation-security-clearance>. It may take up to 60 working days to process a TSC application. If you've lived outside of the country for a long time, or you have a criminal history or have associated with a criminal, it may take more than 60 working days to process the application.
- Vetted organizations or individuals may also be subject to additional terms and conditions, such as a non-disclosure agreement, in order to participate.

EDDHT Certification and Testing Requirements

- The organizations or individuals must ensure that all EDDHT certification events are conducted as specified in the TC certification standards.
- The organizations or individuals must be able to document and report on each EDDHT certification event including a comprehensive written assessment of the proficiencies of the canine team, testing results, video recording and any relevant information to demonstrate per TC certification standards.
- The organizations or individuals will have to provide TC with a schedule of all certification events including the location, date, and time of each EDDHT certification event.
- The organizations or individuals conducting the canine certification must undergo an initial audit and annual oversight performed by TC to validate continued adherence and competencies to TC program requirements.

4- Business Considerations

- EDDHT screening is one of four approved methods of screening within TC's Air Cargo Security (ACS) Program. Both air carriers and Regulated Agents determine which screening method(s) best align with their business model. A Regulated Agent is an entity that is approved in the ACS Program to screen cargo on behalf of others to make it secure and subsequently stores and/or transports the secure cargo. EDDHT screening is currently only approved for cargo destined on all-cargo international and cross-border (U.S.) flights from Canada.
 - EDDHTs are regulated by TC. The dog teams work for unregulated canine companies that are located across the country and have contracts with Regulated Agents and air carriers. There are currently between 75-100 active EDDHTs.
 - With the current number of active EDDHTs in the program, it may initially be a part-time business opportunity for third-party certifier(s) and as the EDDHT program expands, it may become a full-time business opportunity.

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- The organizations or individuals will require a controlled physical space to conduct the certifications, in addition to various physical and infrastructure requirements to perform testing. Additional components, such as cargo commodities and logistics supplies, will also be required. The location or physical property to conduct certifications is at the discretion of the organization/individual. For example, they can leverage their own site or location, or they could leverage locations through establishing working relationships with industry stakeholders, (i.e., Regulated Agents, air carriers and EDDHT companies). The business logistics may also require coordination with government agencies, law enforcement organizations, and private sector entities, such as airport authorities.
- The organizations or individuals will be required to collaborate with EDDHT companies or other service providers to have access and/or store bulk explosives, required to conduct the testing, per the TC certification standards.
- The handling and storage of real explosives requires training and licensing in accordance with Natural Resources Canada Explosive Regulations and TC Transportation Dangerous Goods Regulations. Certain provinces have additional safety and certification requirements. It is the responsibility of organizations or individuals to perform due diligence and adhere to applicable laws and regulations.
- The organizations or individuals must be able to communicate effectively in writing in one of the two official languages.
- Conflict of Interest:
 - Interested organizations or individuals will be prohibited from any business or familial association with any TC certified EDDHTs or the canine companies they work for that are seeking certification.
- Costs:
 - The Government of Canada will not provide any business grants to organizations or individuals who are interested in becoming third-party certifiers.
 - All costs incurred to attend training to become a third-party certifier will be covered by the organization or individuals.
 - Third-party certifiers will set their own rates of pay for all certification tests. TC may require a breakdown of the cost structure at the application stage of the program.
- Other administrative considerations:
 - Business implementation costs
 - Salary and expenditures
 - Training
 - Travel to attend certification event either locally or at locations across Canada such as: Montreal, Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary, etc.
 - Communications and internet fee
 - Video recording equipment
 - Insurance

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5- Nature of the RFI

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way as a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to TC. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

6- Nature and Format of the Requested Responses

Through this process TC is looking to identify the viability of a third-party certification model and identify those who might be interested in becoming a certifier. Those responding to this RFI may be contacted for additional information. Organizations or individuals responding to the RFI, must provide the following information:

- a. Name and address of the organization or individual;
- b. Name, address, telephone number, and email address of the organization or individual;
- c. Submission date;
- d. RFI number; and
- e. Organizations or individuals are encouraged to format their responses in MS Word, Excel, or a PDF Document.

7- Enquiries

All enquiries and communication regarding this RFI must be directed in writing to Transport Canada Contracting Authority, as detailed below. Any clarification or information received from other Government officials will not be considered as an official response.

Jessica Hanschell
Procurement Specialist
Transport Canada
Email: jessica.hanschell@tc.gc.ca