

This revision is raised to:

- A. Respond to questions submitted
- B. Amend the RFSA to correct errors and reflect changes to various Government of Canada processes, policies and legislation.

A. Questions and Answers – Set 2:

Q8	<p>Regarding Stream 4 - Forensic Audit, and MT1 requirements for Suppliers, the minimum dollar value is set at \$50,000.00 which, coupled with the requirement for projects to begin and end within the last 5 years, is proving unusually restrictive. In our experience, most Forensic Audits are completed via short-term assignment totalling around \$25K. Would Canada consider decreasing the minimum dollar value? If the dollar value cannot change, would Canada kindly consider accepting projects that are ongoing if we provide the start and (upcoming) end date, contract number, and dollar value as validation, understanding that the reference provided will serve as the ultimate validation of successful services provision? Either of these changes will enable a wider pool of vendors to submit compliant proposals which benefits Canada through increased competition at the RFP stage.</p>
A8	<p>Please note that evaluation criteria MT1 for Stream 4 does not require that projects “<i>begin and end within the last 5 years</i>”, only that they be “<i>completed within the period which begins five (5) years from the applicable Refresh period opening date and ends on the applicable Refresh period closing date</i>”.</p> <p>The minimum project values and the acceptable periods during which projects must have been completed for evaluation criteria MT1 for Stream 4 remain unchanged. The factors that were considered when coming to this decision were as follows:</p> <p>Prior to the recent Re-competition and current Refresh RFSA's, a consultation process was conducted (RFI E60ZQ-180001/A) that provided the opportunity for current and would be suppliers to raise issues with and suggest changes to any aspect of the RFSA; no formal request for changes to the subject evaluation criteria was brought forward during that consultation.</p> <p>The subject evaluation criteria remains unchanged from the original PASS RFSA and its associated Refreshes (E60ZG-060004/X) and the Re-competition and Refreshes RFSA's (E60ZQ-140002/X) preceding this current process. Consultation processes were also conducted for those RFSA's and no issues were raised with either the minimum project value or the acceptable periods during which projects must have been completed.</p> <p>According to data reported as part of the SA Quarterly Usage Reporting (QUR) requirements, of the 58 Stream 4 contracts that were awarded between FY 2012/13 Q4 and FY 2019/20 Q1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Initial contract values* ranged from approx. \$14k to \$1.8M;- Average was approx. \$172K, or more than 3 times the minimum project value currently required.- Median was approx. \$61K- Percentage of contracts over \$50K was approx. 65% <p>*NOTE: As indicated above, this data is based on initial contract values only; it does not account for any subsequent amendments that might have resulted in increases to the value of</p>

<p>each contract (e.g. to extend the contract period, due to an unforeseen expansion of the scope of work, etc.)</p> <p>Finally, changing the requirement to allow for “upcoming completion” of projects and relying on the references to confirm completion could delay the evaluation process indefinitely and is not feasible. If a project was completed after the closing date of one Refresh period, Suppliers have the opportunity to submit the project in their attempt to qualify during subsequent Refresh periods.</p> <p>Canada will monitor the situation, and should similar issues with the criteria be raised, a change will be considered.</p>
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B. RFSA Amendments

1. To correct the following error in the French version of the RFSA only

- a. The word “expliquer” was missing from Clause 2.3.

At Clause 2.3 – Demandes de renseignements :

INSERT: The word “expliquer” in the first sentence of paragraph 2 as follows:

« Les fournisseurs devraient citer le plus fidèlement possible le numéro de l'article de la DAMA auquel se rapporte la question et prendre soin d'**expliquer** chaque question de manière suffisamment détaillée pour que le Canada puisse y répondre avec exactitude. »

- b. The word “une” was missing from Clause 4.4.1 c) i).

À la clause 4.4 – Viabilité financière :

INSERT: The word “une” in Clause 4.4.1 c) i) as follows:

- i) « le bilan d'ouverture au début de l'exploitation de son entreprise (dans le cas d'**une** société incorporée, la date de constitution); et »

- c. The title for Clause 6A.3.2 is incorrect.

At Clause 6A.3.2, Arrangement en matière d'approvisionnement - établissement des rapports,

DELETE: *Arrangement en matière d'approvisionnement - établissement des rapports*

INSERT: *Clauses du contrat subséquent*

2. Due to implementation of the CPSS online Quarterly Usage Reporting (QUR) process, the description in Clause 6A.3.3, *Supply Arrangement Reporting*, is amended.

At Clause 6A.3.3, Supply Arrangement Reporting,

DELETE: Clause 6A.3.3 in its entirety

INSERT: Amended clause 6A.3.3 as follows:

6A.3.3 Supply Arrangement Reporting

The Supplier must compile and maintain records on its provision of goods, services or both to the federal government under contracts resulting from the SA.

The Supplier must provide this data in accordance with the reporting requirements detailed in [Quarterly Usage Report Instructions](#). If no goods or services are provided during a given period, the Supplier must still provide a "NIL" report. Canada reserves the right to change the "NIL" reporting procedure at any time.

Failure to provide fully completed quarterly reports in accordance with the above instructions may result in the setting aside of the SA and the application of a vendor performance corrective measure.

3. Changes have been made to the Government Contract Regulations and Treasury Board Secretariat's Contracting Policy that affect Clause 6B.2.4, *Requirement Limitations*. Additionally, the description (i.e. "... *must go to all suppliers in the Stream*") did not accurately reflect the pre-established invitation process in CPSS.

At Clause 6B.2.4, *Requirement Limitations*,

DELETE: Clause 6B.2.4 in its entirety

INSERT: Amended clause 6B.2.4 as follows:

6B.2.4 Requirement Limitations

Clients may award contracts to Suppliers qualified in the applicable Stream(s) only in accordance with the following:

Requirement estimated value less than or equal to \$40,000 (applicable taxes included):

Competitive procurement strategy is the standard for most requirements under this SA. However, Clients may direct a contract to a Supplier, without soliciting competitive bids, providing that the Contract, including any subsequent amendment(s), is valued less than or equal to \$40,000 (applicable taxes included), with the exception of Stream 4, Forensic Audit, which must be competed amongst all Suppliers identified in the results of the search performed within the CPSS Client Module.

Requirement estimated value less than North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

Threshold (applicable taxes included): Clients may, if deemed cost effective and efficient, invite a minimum of two (2) Suppliers in the applicable Stream(s) to bid, with the exception of Stream 4, Forensic Audit, which must be competed amongst all Suppliers identified in the results of the search performed within the CPSS Client Module, with the Client:

- i. selecting by name two Suppliers from the CPSS Client Module, or
- ii. selecting by name one Supplier from the CPSS Client Module with the second Supplier randomly selected by the CPSS Client Module, or
- iii. not selecting any Supplier by name, in which case the CPSS Client Module will randomly select two Suppliers.

Requirement estimated value greater than or equal to NAFTA Threshold but less than or equal to \$3,750,000 (applicable taxes included): Clients must invite a minimum of fifteen (15) Suppliers in the applicable Stream(s) to bid, with the exception of Stream 4, Forensic Audit, which must be competed amongst all Suppliers identified in the results of the search performed within the CPSS Client Module, and an NPP identifying the requirements will be posted on GETS, with the Client:

- i. selecting by name ten Suppliers from the CPSS Client Module, with the following five randomly selected by the CPSS Client Module, or

Solicitation No. - N° de l'invitation
E60ZQ-180001/D

Amd. No. - N° de la modif.
A003

Buyer ID - Id de l'acheteur
006ZQ

Client Ref. No. - N° de réf. du client
E60ZQ-180001

File No. - N° du dossier
006zqE60ZQ-180001

CCC No./N° CCC - FMS No./N° VME

- ii. selecting more than ten Suppliers from the Client Module, in which case five additional Suppliers will be randomly selected by the CPSS Client Module, or
- iii. selecting less than ten Suppliers from the Client Module, in which case the CPSS Client Module will randomly select a number of Suppliers that, in addition to the Suppliers selected by the Client, will total fifteen.
- iv. If the number of Suppliers identified in the results of the search performed within the CPSS Client Module is less than fifteen, all Suppliers will be automatically selected.

Requirement estimated value greater than \$3,750,000 (applicable taxes included): Clients must invite all Suppliers identified in the results of the search performed within the CPSS Client Module to bid and an NPP identifying the requirements will be posted on GETS.

No Limit to Invitation Process: There is no limit to the maximum number of Suppliers that may be invited to submit a proposal. However, Suppliers may not submit a proposal in response to a solicitation unless they have been invited to do so. Should an uninvited SA Holder wish to be invited, it may contact the Contracting Authority to request an invitation at any time prior to five days before the published bid closing date, and an invitation will be made to that SA Holder, unless it would not be consistent with the efficient operation of the procurement system. In no circumstance will such an invitation require Canada to extend a bid closing date. Where additional invitations are made during the solicitation process, they may not be reflected in a bid solicitation amendment.

Minimum Period to submit proposal: At a minimum, each bid solicitation issued will provide Suppliers with the following minimum number of calendar days to submit their proposal, which time may be extended based upon a requirement's complexity:

- i. Requirement estimated value less than NAFTA threshold = five (5) calendar days;
- ii. Requirement estimated value greater than or equal to NAFTA threshold but less than or equal to \$3,750,000 = fifteen (15) calendar days;
- iii. Requirement estimated value greater than \$3,750,000 = twenty (20) calendar days; and
- iv. A Client may reduce the above minimum bidding periods for Forensic Audit requirements and other urgent requirements to meet the operational needs of the Identified User with the approval of the SA Authority and validated by the Office of the Comptroller General.

PWGSC reserves the right to decrease the minimum bidding period for specific requirements.

ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED