

Request for Information (RFI) related to the Replacement of the Consolidated Clothing Contract (C3) Sustainment Business Case Analysis (SBCA)

1. Preface

The Sustainment Initiative (SI) is a business transformation initiative, involving the Department of National Defence (DND), Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) and Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), which is transforming the way the Government of Canada approaches and manages defence sustainment. The goal of the SI is to generate tailored solutions that maximize value to Canada through balancing and optimizing the four principles of sustainment: performance, flexibility, value for money and socio-economic benefit. The Sustainment Business Case Analysis (SBCA) process, governed by the Defense Procurement Strategy (DPS), enables the achievement of this SI goal.

2. Objective of the RFI

The objective of this consultation is to engage the industry and obtain feedback about the replacement of the current C3 which Canada is presently examining through the SBCA process. To this end, Canada will hold industry engagement sessions with suppliers, industry associations and other stakeholders related to clothing, textiles and footwear.

3. Background

The C3 has provided a Managed Clothing Solution (MCS) to DND for the past 20 years. This contract supplies approximately 1,400 items of clothing for over 160,000 military and DND civilian users. This includes clothing items such as Regular and Reserve Force service dress uniforms (for all Environments), occupation-specific clothing items (such as for Firefighters, Military Police and civilian drivers), as well as, clothing for the Canadian Rangers, Junior Rangers and Cadet organizations. The orders are shipped directly to the members and to military Bases' clothing stores (outlets) within set service schedules.

The DND achieves benefits from reduced warehousing and inventory handling costs, improved delivery timeframes and increased user satisfaction. The C3 includes design and engineering services which has allowed for the improvement of items on the contract to address evolving requirements. The C3 framework focuses the DND team on its core business and exploits industry's expertise to optimize the performance of the DND supply chain. This contract has allowed the DND to find efficiencies in its business processes.

The C3 has been tendered competitively three times since its inception. The current contract, with the option years, will expire on January 31, 2018, at which time Canada has the intention to extend the contract to ensure that military personnel continue to have access to uniforms. This extension will provide Canada with sufficient time to develop a competitive procurement strategy informed by comprehensive industry engagement and the development of a Sustainment Business Case Analysis.

The Canadian Content Policy was applied to the C3 and will apply to the proposed contract extension.

4. C3 Replacement and the Sustainment Business Case Analysis (SBCA) process

The SBCA process will allow the Government of Canada to generate a tailored solution that maximizes value to Canada through balancing and optimizing the four principles:

- Performance - defence equipment that is operationally ready and mission capable
- Value for money - the required outcomes are procured at a price commensurate with the market rate for comparable procurements
- Flexibility - an adaptable and scalable support system that can readily be adjusted to changes in operational requirements and/or operating budgets
- Economic benefit - leverage industrial benefits from defence procurements to create jobs and economic growth for companies in Canada

The C3 replacement is exempt from the international trade agreements and falls within the framework of the Defence Procurement Strategy announced on February 5, 2014. Therefore, the Industrial and Technological Benefits (ITB) Policy including Value Proposition may be applied to this procurement. The ITB Policy is administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). For information about Canada's ITB Policy, visit www.canada.ca/itb.

5. Industry Engagement Sessions

As part of the industry engagement process, Canada will hold an information session at 9 AM on March 20th 2017. One-on-one confidential discussions will also subsequently be offered. These one-on-one meetings will be held during the afternoon of March 20th 2017 and the following day on March 21st at 45 boul. Sacré-Coeur in Gatineau (National Printing Bureau) or by teleconference at a time and location to be determined, once the number of interested individuals is known.

During the information session, Canada will address the following topics:

- C3 General – Scope & History
- SBCA Process (overview)
- Industrial and Technological Benefits including Value Proposition
- Presentation about Canada's Regional Development Agencies
- Options being considered for 'Sustainment Strategy' detailed analysis

- C3 Replacement Plan
- Anticipated timeline for the analysis and contracting

In the coming weeks, an advance copy of the briefing deck for the information session will be published to allow participants to review it prior to attending.

In order to accommodate administration and scheduling, suppliers and stakeholders interested in attending the information session or participating in a one-on-one meeting or both are asked to confirm their interest by email at patrick.benoit@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca no later than March 14, 2017. We will also require the names of the planned attendees from your organization to secure access to the building prior to their arrival to prevent delays. Late requests and/or last minute requests for a one-on-one meeting will be accommodated subject to administration and scheduling constraints. National Printing Bureau also has ample parking at a cost of \$5 per day.

6. Nature and Format of Responses Requested

- (a) Following the information session and the one-on-one meetings, respondents are requested to provide their comments and suggestions about the replacement of the C3. Respondents are requested to explain any assumptions made in their responses.
- (b) Responses should include the name of the respondent firm and the contact person.

7. Nature of Request for Information (RFI)

- (a) This RFI is an industry consultation intended to solicit feedback from industry with respect to the replacement of the C3. This is not a bid solicitation.
- (b) This RFI will not result in the award of any contract, 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. Also, the procurement of any of the goods and services described in this RFI will not necessarily follow this RFI. This RFI is not considered as an authorization by Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) to undertake any work that would result in costs to Canada.

8. Response Costs

The Government of Canada assumes no responsibility or obligation with respect to the cost of preparing a response to this RFI. Canada will not reimburse any respondent for expenses incurred in responding to this RFI.

9. Treatment of Responses

- (a) Use of Responses:
 - i. Responses will not be formally evaluated. However, the responses received may be used by Canada to modify procurement strategies or any draft documents related to this requirement.

Canada will review all responses received by the RFI closing date. The Government of Canada may, at its discretion, review responses received after the RFI closing date.

- ii. Canada reserves the right to hire any independent consultant, or use any Government resources, which it deems necessary to review any response.
- iii. Written responses will become the property of Canada and will not be returned. Canada may use, reproduce or translate, in whole or in part, in any material form, the responses.

(b) Confidentiality:

- i. Respondents should mark any portions of their response that they consider proprietary and confidential. Respondents must show why the information is confidential. Canada will treat the information as confidential, to the extent permitted by the Access to Information Act, if Canada agrees with the confidential nature of the information.

(c) Follow-up Activity:

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

10. Official Languages

Responses to this RFI may be in either of the official languages of Canada.

11. Enquiries

- (a) All enquiries and communications with Canada regarding this RFI must be directed to the Contracting Authority, preferably on or before the closing date of the RFI, by email to the Contracting Authority at: patrick.benoit@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

- (b) Because this is not a bid solicitation, Canada will not necessarily respond to all enquiries.

12. Submission of Responses – Closing Date

Please submit your written response to this RFI by email to the Contracting Authority at: patrick.benoit@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca by April 5, 2017.

13. Fairness Monitor

- (a) Respondents are advised that Canada will utilize the services of a Fairness Monitor throughout the C3 procurement process.
- (b) Fairness Monitor services are being provided by Knowles Consultancy Services Inc.

14. Contracting Authority

Patrick Benoit
Supply Team Leader
Public Services and Procurement Canada
Commercial and Consumer Products Directorate
Clothing and Textiles Division
Place du Portage, Phase III, 6A2
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0S5
E-mail: patrick.benoit@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca