

Emissions Trading Market Monitoring Services

Request for Proposal RFP#: 2021-01

RESPONSE TO PROPOSERS' QUESTIONS: JUNE 4, 2021

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the [WCI, Inc. website](#) for more information about our services, and to subscribe to the electronic mailing list.



Responses to Proposers' Questions

The purpose of this [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) is to contract with an experienced and qualified contractor to provide **Emissions Trading Market Monitoring Services** (referred to as Market Monitoring Services throughout this RFP), including all tasks detailed in the Attachment A.

The intent of this document is to provide answers to proposers' questions. In some cases, similar questions were combined into one.

1. RFP Response

- 1.1. Please confirm that we can store confidential and market-sensitive data on our secure main server, with active directory permission allowing access on a "need to know" basis only.

No. The confidential and market-sensitive data must be stored on a separate dedicated server. The purpose is to ensure the Participating Jurisdictions confidential and market-sensitive data is segmented from the Contractors regular business operations.

- 1.2. Please confirm that the restriction on "business relationships or separate agreements in place for business-related services with a market participant that is registered to any of the Participating Jurisdictions" only applies to services relating to the auctions we would monitor in the participating jurisdictions.

No. As the Scope of Work specifies, monitoring services are much broader than simply auctions and auction participation. As such, the restriction on business relationships or separate agreements is not limited to services relating to auctions.

- 1.3. Please confirm that we can use a cloud platform (such as Microsoft Azure) to provide participating jurisdictions with dashboards. The cloud platform servers would be located in the United States.

Yes. If you choose to utilize a cloud platform, your proposal should provide more information on how you plan to integrate and visualize data to the Azure dashboard, and on how you intend to maintain data security within the dashboard.

1.4. Would you consider a partnership between two companies that could together provide a total solution of what you are looking for in this RFP?

As indicated in the "Frequently Asked Questions #3 of this RFP", WCI, Inc. expects to make a single award. The Market Monitoring Services intended for this procurement are best provided by a single contractor (inclusive of any subcontractors) responsible for the Scope of Work and monitoring all relevant markets.

1.5. Could you please elaborate on the importance of the following requirement from the RFP? "As of January 1, 2021, the Proposer has at least five (5) years of experience providing Market Monitoring Services comparable in scope, complexity and level of services required for the Work described in this RFP.

As a minimum qualification, WCI, Inc. and the Participating Jurisdictions are seeking Contractors who have successfully demonstrated their subject matter expertise providing at least 5 years of Market Monitoring services for competitive commodity markets. Based on the years of experience of the Contractor and its staff, the Contractors should be able to demonstrate an understanding on how competitive commodity market's function, the behavior of rational, profit maximizing market participants, the role of contracts, how they are structured, and the state and federal laws that govern these markets. Any additional experience or demonstrated capabilities to provide services for the other tasks defined in the Attachment A: Statement of Work will also be considered.

1.6. If there is a mechanism in place to securely access data on a US-based/ Canada-based server from a remote location (such as a Citrix platform), would you consider teams that are partially based outside of US/ Canada?

Per the "Minimum Qualifications" Contractors must have an official presence in the United States, Canada, or in both countries, as demonstrated by having a physical office location in either or both jurisdictions. Per **Task 2**: The plan must recognize that confidential information must be stored and shared only on servers located in the United States or Canada, and that Contractor will use any secure file sharing service that might be approved and in use by Participating Jurisdictions. In addition, the services need to be available during business hours of each Participating Jurisdiction.

1.7. On an average, how many participants apply in the auctions?

An average of 81 qualified bidders (60 California bidders and 21 Québec bidders) were approved to participate in the four California–Québec joint auctions held in 2020. An average of 14 qualified bidders were approved to participate in the two Nova Scotia stand-alone auctions held in 2020. Auction data are based on WCI, Inc. compilation from Auction Results published by [California](#), [Québec](#) and [Nova Scotia](#).

For cost estimating purposes, bidders should assume that each California-Québec Joint Auction may have approximately 100 applicants and that each Nova Scotia Auction may have approximately 25 applicants.

1.8. How often do the auction rules and emission regulations get updated?

Regulatory amendments are not on a set schedule. They can be required by changes in legislation or based on experience and operational needs of the Participating Jurisdictions. Each Participating Jurisdiction must follow its own regulatory amendment process.