



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Title: Direct-Use Geothermal Resources in British Columbia

Date Issued: Wednesday, June 3rd, 2015

Solicitation Closes: 12:00 noon Pacific Time, Thursday, July 2nd, 2015

Enquiries to: Christa Pellett
Project Manager, Geoscience BC

Email: pellett@geosciencebc.com

THE ORGANIZATION

Geoscience BC is an independent, not for profit, geoscience organization with a mandate to attract new energy investment to British Columbia through geoscience. Geoscience BC works in partnership with industry, academia, government, First Nations, and communities to fund innovative applied geoscience projects.

INTRODUCTION

Geothermal energy is a renewable energy source within the crust of the Earth which can be utilized for the generation of electricity; however, the oldest use has been “direct” use for heat, industrial and therapeutic purposes. Previous studies of geothermal energy in British Columbia have focused on mapping and evaluating resources for electricity generation. Direct-use geothermal development projects can utilize lower temperature resources, but the thermal energy, unlike electricity, cannot be transmitted over large distances. Currently in British Columbia, direct-use geothermal energy is used exclusively for hot springs developments. Worldwide, direct-use geothermal energy continues to be used for space heating, agricultural, industrial, commercial, snow clearing and recreational purposes.

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project is to identify and evaluate direct-use geothermal energy opportunities for BC communities that have the potential to reduce green-house gas emissions or be economic development drivers. Several studies of direct-use geothermal energy in BC have focused on the end use application or have been specific to locations or projects. Communities and local governments lack the expert knowledge required to oversee geothermal exploration programs and the cost of exploration is a major barrier to wider adoption of direct-use geothermal energy. This project is intended to be the first step to giving communities and businesses in BC an understanding of what resources are available and how they may proceed to use them.

The objectives for this project are to

- compile and interpret existing geoscience data sets useful for the evaluation of direct-use geothermal energy;
- identify regions and communities in British Columbia with potential for direct-use geothermal energy development;
- compile an inventory of current, planned and potential direct-use geothermal projects;
- identify economic development opportunities from direct-use geothermal energy;
- develop a procedural methodology that can be used by communities to assess direct-use geothermal energy opportunities; and
- provide recommendations for exploration of sites with high-potential of direct-use geothermal opportunities.

In the proposal, it is incumbent on the proponent to provide a detailed list of deliverables which will satisfy the objectives of the study.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND DETAILS

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is focused on Data Compilation, and an assessment of direct-use geothermal resources near communities or areas where geothermal resources could support economic development.

A) Data Presentation and Standards:

All coordinates will be recorded as latitude and longitude, and as UTM eastings and northings in the NAD83 datum. Products will be prepared for web based “data delivery” through a mapping portal.

B) Deliverable Items

The deliverables specified in the proposal along with a written report will be delivered to Geoscience BC, Suite 440 – 890 West Pender Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6C 1J9:

1. Monthly progress reports
2. Regular meetings with Geoscience BC’s Geothermal Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Compilation of Digital Data
4. A Report summarizing the assumptions, uncertainties, methodology, and results. Two (2) print copies and one digital copy in PDF format, which must include the following:
 - i. A report number supplied by Geoscience BC;
 - ii. The name and address of the contractor, the phone and fax numbers of the company and the date of the survey;
 - iii. A table of contents;
 - iv. Details of data compilation and references; and
 - v. A summary of specific problems encountered during compilation and solutions developed

Final deliverables must be received by Geoscience BC no later than March 31, 2016.

CONTENT OF PROPOSAL

The proposal **should** contain:

1. A summary of the proponents relevant past project work, including any previous projects completed for Geoscience BC.
2. A timeline for the project, including an undertaking to start the project in a timely manner with monthly reporting of the status of the project.
3. A price for the project in Canadian dollars. This will be an all-inclusive price, including all personnel, administrative, compilation and final reporting costs.
4. A commitment to work with Geoscience BC on community outreach and engagement activities in local communities in the vicinity of the project.

The submission of standard business development or promotional materials published corporate profiles, annual reports, standard marketing or sales brochures and other like materials is discouraged.

Each Proponent is solely responsible for conducting its own independent research, due diligence, and any other work or investigations and seeking any other independent advice necessary for the preparation of its Proposal. Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve the Proponents from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP.

CONFIRMATION OF INTEREST

Each Proponent who intends to submit a Proposal in response to this RFP shall confirm its intention and provide a single point of contact, phone number, fax number and e-mail address to Christa Pellett at Geoscience BC.

Contact: Christa Pellett
E-Mail: *pellett@geosciencebc.com*

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals will be accepted in the form of an electronic submission in PDF format to pellett@geosciencebc.com by the time and date indicated on page 1 of this RFP document. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP will not be returned, and will be kept confidential. Original Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be accepted. Each Proponent shall be responsible for the timely delivery of its Original Proposal. All components of a proposal must be received by the submission deadline.

GBC may extend the Submission Deadline by issuing an Addendum prior to the Submission Deadline. Proponents who have confirmed their intention to submit a Proposal will be advised directly of any extension of the Submission Deadline.

ENQUIRIES / TIME EXTENSION TO THE RFP CLOSING DATE

All enquiries and other communications related to this RFP throughout the solicitation period shall be directed in writing only to Christa Pellett by email.

To ensure the equality of information among proponents, answers to enquiries which are relevant to the quality of the proposals will be communicated to all proponents who have confirmed their interest in submitting a proposal. Such enquiries must be received at least two (2) working days before the closing date. A request for a time extension to the RFP closing date WILL NOT be considered.

VALIDITY OF PROPOSAL

Any cost estimates associated with the proposals must remain valid for acceptance for a period of not less than ninety (90) day after the closing date of the RFP. After the RFP closing date, no amendments to the proposal will be accepted. However, during the evaluation the Technical Authority may require clarification from or conduct interviews with Proponents.

AMENDMENT OF PROPOSAL

A Proponent may amend its Proposal prior to the Submission Deadline by withdrawing its original Proposal and submitting a revised Proposal.

GBC may, in its sole discretion, seek clarification of any matter in a Proposal in any manner it considers appropriate including investigating the abilities and experience of the Proponents, seeking information from other parties about the Proponent, requiring the Proponents to submit supplementary documentation and seeking the Proponent's acknowledgement of GBC's interpretation of the Proponent's Proposal.

APPLICABLE LAWS

Any contracts subsequently negotiated and awarded with respect to this RFP shall be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the Parties determined, by the laws in force in the province of British Columbia and the parties attorn to the jurisdiction of the British Columbia courts.

RIGHTS OF GEOSCIENCE BC

Geoscience BC reserves the right to:

- a) Reject any or all proposals received in response to this RFP
- b) Enter into negotiations with one or more Bidders on any or all aspects of its proposal;
- c) Accept any proposal in whole or in part;
- d) Cancel and/or reissue this requirement at any time;
- e) Award one or more contracts;
- f) Verify any or all information provided with respect to this requirement;
- g) Award contracts without competition for follow-on-work if any, to the successful proponent for this requirement;
- h) Reduce or increase the overall RFP scope by 20%.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY GEOSCIENCE BC

No representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made and no responsibility of any kind is accepted by GBC, or its advisors, employees, consultants or agents, for the completeness or accuracy of any information contained in the RFP Documents or that is provided during the RFP process or contract negotiation process, or under a contract that may be entered into, if any.

CHANGES TO THE RFP DOCUMENTS

GBC may, prior to the Submission Deadline, without liability, cost or penalty, alter the Submission Deadline and amend or supplement the RFP Documents by Addenda only. No other communications of any kind whatsoever will modify the RFP Documents.

COSTS OF PROPOSAL

The Proponent shall bear all costs and expenses with respect to the preparation and submission of its Proposal and any other activity pertaining to its Proposal, including its participation in the RFP process and contract negotiation, if any. GBC shall not be liable to pay any such costs/expenses regardless of the conduct or the outcome of the RFP process.

CONFIDENTIALITY

GBC and its partners will take all reasonable precautions to maintain the confidentiality of the information submitted by the Proponents, subject to any disclosure required by law. GBC reserves the right, however, to disclose the Proposal to employees, servants, agents, advisors and consultants of GBC and its partners and affiliates for the purpose of assisting GBC in evaluating the Proposal. The employees, servants, agents, advisors and consultants of GBC and its partners and affiliates will not be liable for any damages resulting from any disclosure before, during or after the issuance of this RFP and the submission of a Proposal.

Proponents will take all reasonable precautions to maintain the confidentiality of any information provided by GBC, subject to any disclosure required by law. Proponents reserve the right, however, to disclose the Proposal to employees, servants, agents, advisors and consultants of the Proponent and its affiliates for the purpose of assisting Proponents in preparing the Proposal.

NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS

Recipients of or Proponents to this RFP shall not issue any public statement or news release pertaining to this RFP without the prior written consent of GBC.

ABSENCE OF CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS DURING RFP PROCESS

- (a) GBC shall have no obligation to enter into a contract with a Proponent in respect of the provision of Services that are the subject of this RFP. GBC shall only have obligations to a Proponent if it decides to execute a written agreement with a Proponent and such obligations shall be in accordance with the terms and conditions of that agreement as finalized between GBC and the Proponent.
- (b) GBC may, in its sole discretion, for any reason and at any time, take any action in respect of the Proposals it receives including:
 - (i) Entering into further discussions or clarification meetings with one or more of the Proponents;
 - (ii) Entering into any contract or contract negotiations with one or more of the Proponents;
 - (iii) Inviting any of the Proponents to participate in another competitive process to carry out the Services;
 - (iv) Requesting one or more of the Proponents to supplement and resubmit their Proposal;
 - (v) Accepting or rejecting any Proposal;
 - (vi) Annulling this RFP process and rejecting all Proposals; or
 - (vii) Annulling this RFP process and commencing a new process;

at any time without incurring any liability to an affected Proponent and without any obligation to inform an affected Proponents of the reasons for GBC's actions. Nothing in this subsection or elsewhere in the RFP Documents shall impact or affect the validity of (a) and (b).

FURTHER INFORMATION, CLARIFICATION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Requests for further information, clarification or for any other purpose related to this RFP are to be made by e-mail to:

Christa Pellett
E-Mail: pellett@geosciencebc.com

- (a) Proponents are responsible for seeking any clarification that they require well in advance (at least 2 working days) of the Submission Deadline. GBC shall not be responsible for any misunderstanding of the RFP Documents.
- (b) For all purposes related to this RFP, Proponents shall not contact or attempt to contact:
 - (i) Any GBC officer, employee, subcontractor, agent, representative, consultant or volunteer with respect to this RFP, **other than the GBC contact set out in subsection (a) above; and**
 - (ii) Any other prospective Proponent except for the purpose of discussing the possibility of submitting a Proposal as a Joint Venture.

METHOD OF SELECTION

This RFP will be awarded based on qualifications, work plan and budget (in Canadian dollars). GBC shall, in its sole discretion, use any evaluation criteria (whether subjective or objective), it deems suitable to evaluate the Proposals. In the event that GBC selects a Proponent for the provision of the Services, GBC

will notify each Proponent in writing, and GBC's method of selecting the Proponents will remain confidential to GBC.

AGREEMENTS

GBC will confirm the business arrangement in the form of a Project Agreement to be drafted after selection of the successful Proponent(s).