

SSC's notice for the new Software Licensing Vehicle (SLV)

Shared Services Canada (SSC)'s Procurement and Vendor Relations (PVR) Directorate is planning to issue a software licensing vehicle solicitation for the procurement of software and its associated maintenance and support that falls under SSC's mandate. This tool, the Software Licensing Vehicle (SLV), will effectively be SSC's version of the Software Licensing Supply Arrangement (SLSA). SSC expects to issue the first phase of this tool on Buy and Sell by this winter.

BACKGROUND:

As part of its mandate, SSC is responsible for the transformation of how the government buys and uses the software that relates to its mandate. To that extent, the most recent OIC (2015-1071) conferred a mandate on SSC to provide its services to a broader client group on a mandatory basis, which creates a need for additional procurement under SSC's authorities. SSC now is solely responsible for software whose capabilities fall under SSC's business lines including Data Centers, Networks, Email, and Workplace Technology Devices, as well as Cyber Security as it relates to the aforementioned business lines (and offered on the Services Catalogue).

Services Catalogue Offering	Services Offered
Data Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Hosting• High Performance• File Services
Infrastructure Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Networks Infrastructure• Internet Enterprise Service• Contact Centre• Managed Secure File Transfer Services
End User Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operating Systems• Creative Productivity• Client Productivity
Cyber Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat Management• Endpoint Security• Identity Management• Perimeter and Network Security
Technical Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compute• Storage

The transfer of procurement authority from PSPC to SSC was not accompanied with the transfer of established procurement tools for the provisioning of goods and services associated with software. One such tool, the Software Licensing Supply Arrangement (SLSA), continues to be the Government of Canada (GC)'s mechanism of choice for the procurement of most software titles. The SLSA has been an effective procurement tool for the GC and will continue to meet PSPC's on-going needs. However, in order to support its service offerings, SSC requires its own tool to meet its requirements.

PROPOSED CONTENT:

The SLV will be issued in two phases. The first phase will be very similar to PSPC’s current SLSA in that any interested suppliers will be required to submit bids in response to a solicitation issued on BuyandSell by SSC. SSC expects to release Phase 1 of the SLV this winter, with the first supply arrangements awarded to qualified vendors shortly thereafter.

Phase 2 will allow SSC to compete among qualified supply arrangement (SA) holders by software subcategory to consolidate, manage and standardize software (under SSC’s mandate) that is used by the GC. Phase 2 is in the early planning stages, and may require additional vendor engagement before it is commenced. The issuance of Phase 2 solicitations and the subsequent award of Phase 2 contracts will not necessarily prevent the use of the Phase 1 vehicles. More information about Phase 2 will be included in the SLV when it is released.

Below are expected similarities and differences between the SSC’s SLV Phase 1 and PSPC’s current SLSA.

Criteria	SLSA	SLV
Number of Phases	RFSA	Phase 1: Suppliers will submit bids to an RFSA, agree to GOC’s T&Cs and submit to the Supply Chain Integrity (SCI) process Phase 2: SSC will issue competitive solicitations among SA holders to establish contracts, SA, DISO, or other tools for the competitive solicitation of standards based on software capabilities
Delegation of authority to client departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on value of requirement and number of resellers available for each SA holder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSC does not currently have the authority to delegate its procurement authority If delegation authority is granted, will be based on value of requirement
Catalogue organization for clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on SA holder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on SSC Software Category groupings in accordance with SSC’s services
Resellers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Class 1 (bid on RFQ and accept contracts) and Class 2 (contracts fulfillment only) A larger number of Class 1 resellers results in higher procurement delegation authority for client users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes The SA holder may select up to 5 authorized resellers to respond to RFQ and manage contracts on its behalf In Phase 2, SSC may require value-added capabilities of the resellers (i.e., asset management/coordination with SSC)
Supplier T&Cs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes – Annex E & F When the terms contradict GC, they are deemed stricken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes When the terms contradict GC, they are deemed stricken
RFSA Posting End Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, with possibility to extend the End Date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. SSC will continue posting the RFSA until such a time where it is not advantageous to do so.

Supply Chain Integrity (SCI) Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. All proposed software titles must be submitted and processed before the vehicle can be awarded to a potential supplier.
Trade Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WTD-AGP, NAFTA, AIT apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All IT-related SSC procurement are covered by a National Security Exception, which means that the trade agreements do not apply. • SSC will determine whether to de-invoke the NSE for the first phase, except for the SCI process, which will be a requirement for all SAs.
Software Appliance Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical authorities will have to define the software appliances appropriate for each business line. The categories will be added as they are defined.
Ancillary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSC may allow pricing for non-professional services including training and installation services specific to procured software.
Denomination	<p>Current SLSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAD only <p>Proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suppliers may submit price information in USD or CAD • Canada may issue contracts in USD or CAD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bidders may submit price information in USD or CAD • Canada may issue contracts in USD or CAD
Open Source Software	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSC is developing an open-source software policy that will be integrated into Phase 1 and 2 of this SLV once complete.
Pricing/catalogue updates	<p>Current SLSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly <p>Proposed changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually • May amend current SAs on a case-by-case basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less frequently – either biannually or annually. • May amend current SAs on a case-by-case basis.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CONVERSION OF SOFTWARE CATEGORIES FROM PSPC’S SLSA TO SSC’S SLV:

PSPC’s SLSA contains a listing of software categories that describe most software titles procured by the GC (Annex G: <http://logiciels-software.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/aaall-slsa/lqcl-ctgr-eng.cfm>). SSC has used these categories to develop its own list of software capabilities that fall under SSC’s mandate according to its business lines and the services offered. Therefore, SSC will adopt some of the existing Annex G categories, clarify any subcategories that are ambiguous or missing from the current Annex G, and refine the definitions to be specific to SSC’s mandate in time for the SLV solicitation. Before the SLV (and the SLSA refresh described below) is issued, all categories will be clearly defined as either SSC or PSPC’s responsibility to procure.

The SLSA team is preparing for the next iteration of the SLSA, which seeks to simplify the split of responsibilities between PSPC and SSC, allow for Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), and other changes. At the same time, the SLSA Annex G will be clarified to separate the categories according to the procurement authority. Until such time as the SLV is awarded, vendors who have products that belong

in SSC's mandate and are existing SLSA holders will remain on the SLSA (although PSPC may delineate the supply arrangements to separate software that falls solely in SSC's mandate to procure).

Any software that falls solely under SSC's mandate must only be offered on SSC's tool. However, until such a time as the SLV vehicles are awarded by SSC, vendors of the SLSA should continue to use the SLSA and all its categories as they do currently. Only once the SLV is awarded should a vendor remove the applicable software titles from the SLSA catalogue.

New vendors seeking supply arrangements under the SLSA for products that fall within in SSC's mandate will not be entertained due to the pending SLV. Until the SLV is issued, suppliers offering software falling solely within SSC's mandate can still do business with the GC, just not through an existing procurement tool. It is possible that other software could be submitted to SSC's tool while remaining on PSPC's SLSA if the software's capabilities support SSC's internal initiatives but do not belong solely under SSC's responsibility.

PROPOSED CATEGORIES TO BE OFFERED BY THE SLV IN ACCORDANCE WITH SSC BUSINESS LINES AND SERVICES OFFERED:

SSC has aligned its categories with the services it offers. Where the category is identical or similar to the Annex G listing, a reference to the associated subcategory number is listed in parentheses. The categories that remain under discussion (but will be decided by the time the SLV and SLSA refresh are issued) are italicized in the list below.

Data Centre Services

High-Performance Computing

- Application Infrastructure Software (502)
- Application Life-Cycle Management Software (402)
- Information Access Software Related to Mainframes (222)
- Application Visualization Software (802)

File Services

- File and Print Services Software (610)
- Data Migration Software (606)
- Master Data Management Software (114)

Application Hosting

- Application Infrastructure Software (502)
- *Application integration and Connectivity Software (504)*
- Managed File Transfer Software (510)
- Message Oriented Middleware Software (512)
- Data Warehouse Software (104)
- *Business Intelligence Software (102)*
- Relational Database Management Systems Software (106)
- Database tools, Utilities & Management Software (110)
- Extract Transformation and Load Software (112)
- Web Analytical Software (120)

Infrastructure Services – Networks

Networks Infrastructure

- Network Communications Software (612)
- Network Virtualization Software (806)
- Network Monitoring Software (new)
- Switching Software (618)

- Unified Communications Software (620)
- Network Management, Analysis and Performance Software (908)

Managed Secure File Transfer Services

- Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Software (1234)
- Encryption Software (1216)
- Identity Management Software (1222)

Internet Enterprise Service

- Mobility Security Software (1228)
- Internet Monitoring, Filtering & Access Control Software (1224)

Contact Centre

- Help Desk Software (906)
- Call Center Software (906)
- Change and Configuration Management Software (902)
- Patch Management Software (910)
- Server Performance Testing & Analysis Software (912)
- Software Asset Management Software (914)
- Storage Management Software (916)

End User Services

Operating Systems

- Desktop operating System (702)
- Mobile operating Systems (706)

Desktop Publishing Software (1006)

- Portable document software (1018)
- *Electronic Forms Software (212)*

Multimedia Software

- *Graphic Design Software (1010)*
- Video Editing Software (new)
- Multimedia Streaming Software (1012)
- Presentation Software (new)
- Imaging & Viewing Software (1010)

Client productivity software

- Desktop Management Software (904)
- Office Automation Suite Software (1014)
- Workflow & Collaboration Software (228)
- Personal Information Management Software (1016)
 - Includes Calendar and Scheduling Software (1004)
- Adaptive Computing Technology Software (1002)
- Electronic Mail and Messaging Software (1008)
- *Project Management Software (1020)*

Virtualization Software

- Application Virtualization Software (802)
- Desktop Virtualization Software (804)

Technical Services

Compute

Operating Systems

- Mainframe operating systems (704)
- Realtime operating system software (708)
- Server operating system software (710)

Virtualization Software

- Server Virtualization Software (806)
- Virtualization Backup & Recovery Software (810)
- Virtualization Management Software (812)
- Virtualization Monitoring Tools Software (814)

Storage

- Storage Virtualization Software (808)
- Archive Software (602)
- Backup Software (604)
- Network Storage Software (614)

Cyber Security

Threat Management Software

- Security Information Event Management Software (1230)
- Advanced Persistent Threat Software (new)
- User and Entity Behaviour Analytics Software (new)

Identity Management Software

- Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Software (1234)
- Privacy Software (1232)
- Security Content Classification & Marking Software (1212)
- Credential Management Software (new)

Endpoint Security Software

- Endpoint Security Software (1218)
- Firewall Software (1220)
- Unified Threat Management Software (1240)
- Intrusion Prevention and Detection Software (including Host-based) (1226)
- Anti-Malware Software (1202)
- Data Loss Prevention Software (1214)
- Application White-Listing Software (1204)
- Anti-Virus Software (new)
- Encryption Software (1216)
- Virtualization Security Software (816)

Perimeter and Network Security Software

- Encryption Software (1216)
- Virtual Private Network Software (new)
- Mobility Security Software (1228)
- Remote Access Software (1236)
- Internet Monitoring, Filtering & Access Control Software (1224)

Forensics Software

- Computer Forensics Software (1210)
- Security Risk Management and Policy Compliance Software (1238)