



Return Bids to:

Natural Resources Canada

Bid Receiving Natural Resources Canada
See herein for bid submission instructions

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Proposal To: Natural Resources Canada

We hereby offer to sell to Her Majesty the Queen in right of Canada, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out herein, referred to herein or attached hereto, the goods, services, and construction listed herein and on any attached sheets at the price(s) set out therefor.

Comments

Issuing Office

Finance and Procurement Management Branch
Natural Resources Canada
1 Challenger Drive
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Title – Sujet	
Removal of Cerium from REE Sulphate Solution	
Solicitation No. – No de l'invitation NRCan- 5000064963	Date January 31, 2022
Requisition Reference No. - N° de la demande (5000064963) 169495	
Solicitation Closes – L'invitation prend fin at – à 02:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time (EST)) on – February 14, 2022	
Address Enquiries to: - Adresse toutes questions à: julia.pace@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca	
Telephone No. – No de telephone 902-719-4856	
Destination – of Goods and Services: Destination – des biens et services: Natural Resources Canada 555 Booth Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G1	
Security – Sécurité There are no security requirements associated with this requirement.	
Vendor/Firm Name and Address Raison sociale et adresse du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur Telephone No.:- No. de téléphone: Email – Courriel :	
Name and Title of person authorized to sign on behalf of Vendor/Firm (type or print) Nom et titre de la personne autorisée à signer au nom du fournisseur/de l'entrepreneur (taper ou écrire en caractères d'imprimerie)	
Signature _____	Date _____



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The Articles contained in this document are mandatory in their entirety, unless otherwise indicated. Acceptance of these Articles, in their entirety, as they appear in this document, is a Mandatory requirement of this RFP.

Suppliers submitting a proposal containing statements implying that their proposal is conditional on modification of these clauses or containing terms and conditions that purport to supersede these clauses or derogate from them will be considered non-responsive.

Bidders with concerns regarding the provisions of the Bid Solicitation document (including the Resulting Contract Clauses) should raise such concerns in accordance with the Enquiries provision of this RFP.



PART 1 - GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 Introduction

The bid solicitation is divided into seven parts plus attachments and annexes, as follows:

Part 1 General Information: provides a general description of the requirement;

Part 2 Bidder Instructions: provides the instructions, clauses and conditions applicable to the bid solicitation;

Part 3 Bid Preparation Instructions: provides Bidders with instructions on how to prepare their bid;

Part 4 Evaluation Procedures and Basis of Selection: indicates how the evaluation will be conducted, the evaluation criteria that must be addressed in the bid, and the basis of selection;

Part 5 Certifications and Additional Information: includes the certifications and additional information to be provided;

Part 6 Security and Other Requirements: includes specific requirements that must be addressed by Bidders; and

Part 7 Resulting Contract Clauses: includes the clauses and conditions that will apply to any resulting contract.

The Annexes include the Statement of Work, the Basis of Payment and any other annexes and attachments.

The Appendixes include the Evaluation Criteria and the Financial Proposal Form.

1.2 Summary

The objective of the study is to build on the current state of knowledge on early cerium removal within this context, the objective of this study is to gain knowledge on the factors and conditions that allow for effective cerium rejection at near-zero Rare Earth Element (REE) losses.

Cerium can be oxidized and removed in various processes within a REE process flowsheet, depending on the operating conditions selected. In order to define a scope for this study that would be applicable and/or relevant to all Canadian REE projects, this study will focus on removing cerium, by oxidation, in an enriched and purified REE sulphate solution, prior to feeding into a downstream REE separation circuit.

The resulting contract will be from date of award to June 30, 2022.

1.2.1 This bid solicitation allows bidders to use the epost Connect service provided by Canada Post Corporation to transmit their bid electronically. Bidders must refer to Part 2 entitled Bidder Instructions, and Part 3 entitled Bid Preparation Instructions, of the bid solicitation, for further information.



1.3 Debriefings

Bidders may request a debriefing on the results of the bid solicitation process. Bidders should make the request to the Contracting Authority within 15 working days from receipt of the results of the bid solicitation process. The debriefing will be done in writing, by email.



PART 2 - BIDDER INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Standard Instructions, Clauses and Conditions

All instructions, clauses and conditions identified in the bid solicitation by number, date and title are set out in the [Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions Manual](https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual) (https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual) issued by Public Works and Government Services Canada.

Bidders who submit a bid agree to be bound by the instructions, clauses and conditions of the bid solicitation and accept the clauses and conditions of the resulting contract.

The [2003](#) (2020-05-28) Standard Instructions - Goods or Services - Competitive Requirements, are incorporated by reference into and form part of the bid solicitation with the modifications to the text below. If there is a conflict between the provisions of 2003 and this document, this document prevails.

- **In the complete text content (except Section 3) Delete:** Public Works and Government Services Canada” and **Insert:** “Natural Resources Canada.” **Delete:** “PWGSC” and **Insert:** “NRCan”
- **Section 2: Delete:** “Suppliers are required to” and **Insert:** “It is suggested that suppliers”
- **Subsection 1 of Section 8:** Delete entirely
- **Subsection 2 of Section 8: Delete entirely**
Delete: The only acceptable email address to use with epost Connect for responses to bid solicitation issued by PWGSC headquarters is: [tps-gc-pwgsc.gc.ca](mailto:tpsgc.dgareceptiondessaoumissions-abbidReceiving.pwgsc@tps-gc-pwgsc.gc.ca), or, if applicable, the email address identified in the bid solicitation. The only acceptable email address to use with epost Connect for responses to bid solicitations issued by PWGSC regional offices is identified in the bid solicitation.
Insert: The only acceptable email address to use with epost Connect for responses to bid solicitation issued by NRCan is: procurement-appvisionnement@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca
- **Under Subsection 2 of Section 20:** Not applicable

2.2 Submission of Bids

Bids must be submitted only to the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) Bid Receiving Unit specified below by the date and time indicated on page 1 of the bid solicitation.

NRCan Bid Receiving Unit:

Only bids submitted using epost Connect service will be accepted. The Bidder must send an email requesting to open an epost Connect conversation to the following address:

procurement-appvisionnement@NRCan-RNCan.gc.ca

Note: Bids will not be accepted if e-mailed directly to this address. This e-mail address is to be used to open an ePost Connect conversation, as detailed in the Standard Instructions [2003 \(Subsection 2 of Section 08\)](#), or to send bids through an ePost Connect message if the bidder is using its own licensing agreement for ePost Connect.

IMPORTANT: It is requested that you write the bid solicitation number in “Subject” of the email:



NRCan – 500064963 Removal of Cerium from REE Sulphate Solution

NRCan will not assume responsibility for proposals directed to any other location.

The onus is on the Bidder to ensure that the bid is submitted correctly using epost Connect service. Not complying with the instructions may result in NRCan's inability to ascertain reception date and/or to consider the bid prior to contract award. Therefore, NRCan reserves the right to reject any proposal not complying with these instructions.

Due to the nature of the bid solicitation, bids transmitted by mail or facsimile to NRCan will not be accepted.

2.3 Enquiries - Bid Solicitation

All enquiries must be submitted in writing to the Contracting Authority no later than Five (5) calendar days before the bid closing date. Enquiries received after that time may not be answered.

Bidders should reference as accurately as possible the numbered item of the bid solicitation to which the enquiry relates. Care should be taken by Bidders to explain each question in sufficient detail in order to enable Canada to provide an accurate answer. Technical enquiries that are of a proprietary nature must be clearly marked "proprietary" at each relevant item. Items identified as "proprietary" will be treated as such except where Canada determines that the enquiry is not of a proprietary nature. Canada may edit the question(s) or may request that the Bidder do so, so that the proprietary nature of the question(s) is eliminated and the enquiry can be answered to all Bidders. Enquiries not submitted in a form that can be distributed to all Bidders may not be answered by Canada.

2.4 Applicable Laws

Any resulting contract must be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties determined, by the laws in force in Ontario.

Bidders may, at their discretion, substitute the applicable laws of a Canadian province or territory of their choice without affecting the validity of their bid, by deleting the name of the Canadian province or territory specified and inserting the name of the Canadian province or territory of their choice. If no change is made, it acknowledges that the applicable laws specified are acceptable to the Bidders.

2.5 Improvement of Requirement During Solicitation Period

Should bidders consider that the specifications or Statement of Work contained in the bid solicitation could be improved technically or technologically, bidders are invited to make suggestions, in writing, to the Contracting Authority named in the bid solicitation. Bidders must clearly outline the suggested improvement as well as the reason for the suggestion. Suggestions that do not restrict the level of competition nor favour a particular bidder will be given consideration provided they are submitted to the Contracting Authority at least Five (5) days before the bid closing date. Canada will have the right to accept or reject any or all suggestions.



PART 3 - BID PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Bid Preparation Instructions

Canada requests that Bidders provide their bid in separately bound sections as follows:

- Section I: Technical Bid (1 electronic copy)
- Section II: Financial Bid (1 electronic copy) in a separate file and document
- Section III: Certifications (1 electronic copy)
- Section IV: Additional Information (one (1) electronic copy)

Prices should appear in the financial bid only. No prices should be indicated in any other section of the bid.

Canada requests that Bidders follow the format instructions described below in the preparation of their bid:

- (a) use 8.5 x 11 inch (216 mm x 279 mm) format;
- (b) use a numbering system that corresponds to the bid solicitation.

Section I: Technical Bid

In their technical bid, Bidders should demonstrate their understanding of the requirements contained in the bid solicitation and explain how they will meet these requirements. Bidders should demonstrate their capability and describe their approach in a thorough, concise and clear manner for carrying out the work.

The technical bid should address clearly and in sufficient depth the points that are subject to the evaluation criteria against which the bid will be evaluated. Simply repeating the statement contained in the bid solicitation is not sufficient. In order to facilitate the evaluation of the bid, Canada requests that Bidders address and present topics in the order of the evaluation criteria under the same headings. To avoid duplication, Bidders may refer to different sections of their bids by identifying the specific paragraph and page number where the subject topic has already been addressed.

Section II: Financial Bid

Bidders must submit their financial bid in accordance with the Financial Proposal Form in Appendix "2" The total amount of Applicable Taxes must be shown separately.

Section III: Certifications

Bidders must submit the certifications and additional information required under Part 5.

Section IV: Additional Information



In Section IV of their bid, bidders should provide:

1. the 1st page of this RFP signed with their legal name;
2. the name of the contact person (provide also this person's mailing address, phone numbers and email address) authorized by the Bidder to enter into communications with Canada with regards to their bid, and any contract that may result from their bid.



PART 4 - EVALUATION PROCEDURES AND BASIS OF SELECTION

4.1 Evaluation Procedures

- (a) Bids will be assessed in accordance with the entire requirement of the bid solicitation including the Technical and financial evaluation criteria.
- (b) An evaluation team composed of representatives of Canada will evaluate the bids.

4.1.1 Technical Evaluation

Mandatory and point rated technical evaluation criteria are included in Appendix 1 - Evaluation Criteria.

4.1.2 Financial Evaluation

Mandatory financial evaluation criteria are included in Appendix 2 – Evaluation Criteria.

4.2 Basis of Selection

4.2.1 Highest Rated Within Budget

- 1. To be declared responsive, a bid must:
 - a. comply with all the requirements of the bid solicitation;
 - b. meet all mandatory technical evaluation criteria; and
 - c. obtain the required minimum of 43 points overall for the technical evaluation criteria which are subject to point rating. The rating is performed on a scale of 72 points.
- 2. Bids not meeting (a) or (b) or (c) will be declared non responsive. The responsive bid with the highest number of points will be recommended for award of a contract, provided that the total evaluated price does not exceed the budget available for this requirement.



PART 5 - CERTIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bidders must provide the required certifications and additional information to be awarded a contract.

The certifications provided by Bidders to Canada are subject to verification by Canada at all times. Unless specified otherwise, Canada will declare a bid non-responsive, or will declare a contractor in default if any certification made by the Bidder is found to be untrue, whether made knowingly or unknowingly, during the bid evaluation period or during the contract period.

The Contracting Authority will have the right to ask for additional information to verify the Bidder's certifications. Failure to comply and to cooperate with any request or requirement imposed by the Contracting Authority will render the bid non-responsive or constitute a default under the Contract.

5.1 Certifications Required with the Bid

Bidders must submit the following duly completed certifications as part of their bid.

5.1.1 Integrity Provisions - Declaration of Convicted Offences

In accordance with the Integrity [Provisions of the Standard Instructions](https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual/1/2003/25#integrity-provisions) (<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual/1/2003/25#integrity-provisions>), all bidders must provide with their bid, **if applicable**, the Integrity declaration form available on the [Forms for the Integrity Regime](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/declaration-eng.html) website (<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/declaration-eng.html>), to be given further consideration in the procurement process.

5.2 Certifications Precedent to Contract Award and Additional Information

The certifications and additional information listed below should be submitted with the bid but may be submitted afterwards. If any of these required certifications or additional information is not completed and submitted as requested, the Contracting Authority will inform the Bidder of a time frame within which to provide the information. Failure to provide the certifications or the additional information listed below within the time frame specified will render the bid non-responsive.

5.2.1 Integrity Provisions – Required Documentation

In accordance with the section titled Information to be provided when bidding, contracting or entering into a real property agreement of the [Ineligibility and Suspension Policy](http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html) (<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ci-if/politique-policy-eng.html>), the Bidder must provide the required documentation, as applicable, to be given further consideration in the procurement process.

- Bidders who are incorporated, including those bidding as a joint venture, must provide a complete list of names of all individuals who are currently directors of the Bidder or, in the case of a private company, the owners of the company.
- Bidders bidding as sole proprietorship, as well as those bidding as a joint venture, must provide the name of the owner(s).



- Bidders bidding as partnerships do not need to provide lists of names.

Name of Bidder: _____

OR

Name of each member of the joint venture:

Member 1: _____

Member 2: _____

Member 3: _____

Member 4: _____

Identification of the administrators/owners:

SURNAME	NAME	TITLE

5.2.2 Federal Contractors Program for Employment Equity - Bid Certification

By submitting a bid, the Bidder certifies that the Bidder, and any of the Bidder's members if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, is not named on the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) for employment equity "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid" list available at the bottom of the page of the [Employment and Social Development Canada \(ESDC\) - Labour's](https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/employment-equity/federal-contractor-program.html#) website. (https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/employment-equity/federal-contractor-program.html#).

Canada will have the right to declare a bid non-responsive if the Bidder, or any member of the Bidder if the Bidder is a Joint Venture, appears on the "FCP Limited Eligibility to Bid" list at the time of contract award.

5.2.3 Status and Availability of Resources

The Bidder certifies that, should it be awarded a contract as a result of the bid solicitation, every individual proposed in its bid will be available to perform the Work as required by Canada's representatives and at the time specified in the bid solicitation or agreed to with Canada's representatives. If for reasons beyond its control, the Bidder is unable to provide the services of an individual named in its bid, the Bidder may propose a substitute with similar



qualifications and experience. The Bidder must advise the Contracting Authority of the reason for the substitution and provide the name, qualifications and experience of the proposed replacement. For the purposes of this clause, only the following reasons will be considered as beyond the control of the Bidder: death, sickness, maternity and parental leave, retirement, resignation, dismissal for cause or termination of an agreement for default.

If the Bidder has proposed any individual who is not an employee of the Bidder, the Bidder certifies that it has the permission from that individual to propose his/her services in relation to the Work to be performed and to submit his/her résumé to Canada. The Bidder must, upon request from the Contracting Authority, provide a written confirmation, signed by the individual, of the permission given to the Bidder and of his/her availability. Failure to comply with the request may result in the bid being declared non-responsive.

5.2.4 Education and Experience

The Bidder certifies that all the information provided in the résumés and supporting material submitted with its bid, particularly the information pertaining to education, achievements, experience and work history, has been verified by the Bidder to be true and accurate. Furthermore, the Bidder warrants that every individual proposed by the Bidder for the requirement is capable of performing the Work described in the resulting contract.

5.2.5 Former Public Servant

Contracts awarded to former public servants (FPS) in receipt of a pension or of a lump sum payment must bear the closest public scrutiny, and reflect fairness in the spending of public funds. In order to comply with Treasury Board policies and directives on contracts awarded to FPSs, bidders must provide the information required below before contract award. If the answer to the questions and, as applicable the information required have not been received by the time the evaluation of bids is completed, Canada will inform the Bidder of a time frame within which to provide the information. Failure to comply with Canada's request and meet the requirement within the prescribed time frame will render the bid non-responsive.

Definitions

For the purposes of this clause, "former public servant" is any former member of a department as defined in the [Financial Administration Act](#), R.S., 1985, c. F-11, a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces or a former member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. A former public servant may be:

- a. an individual;
- b. an individual who has incorporated;
- c. a partnership made of former public servants; or
- d. a sole proprietorship or entity where the affected individual has a controlling or major interest in the entity.

"lump sum payment period" means the period measured in weeks of salary, for which payment has been made to facilitate the transition to retirement or to other employment as a result of the implementation of various programs to reduce the size of the Public Service. The lump sum payment period does not include the period of severance pay, which is measured in a like manner.



"pension" means a pension or annual allowance paid under the *Public Service Superannuation Act* (PSSA), R.S., 1985, c. P-36, and any increases paid pursuant to the *Supplementary Retirement Benefits Act*, R.S., 1985, c. S-24 as it affects the PSSA. It does not include pensions payable pursuant to the *Canadian Forces Superannuation Act*, R.S., 1985, c. C-17, the *Defence Services Pension Continuation Act*, 1970, c. D-3, the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pension Continuation Act*, 1970, c. R-10, and the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act*, R.S., 1985, c. R-11, the *Members of Parliament Retiring Allowances Act*, R.S. 1985, c. M-5, and that portion of pension payable to the *Canada Pension Plan Act*, R.S., 1985, c. C-8.

Former Public Servant in Receipt of a Pension

As per the above definitions, is the Bidder a FPS in receipt of a pension? **Yes () No ()**

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information, for all FPSs in receipt of a pension, as applicable:

- a. name of former public servant; _____
- b. date of termination of employment or retirement from the Public Service. _____

By providing this information, Bidders agree that the successful Bidder's status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a pension, will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports in accordance with [Contracting Policy Notice: 2019-01](#) and the [Guidelines on the Proactive Disclosure of Contracts](#).

Work Force Adjustment Directive

Is the Bidder a FPS who received a lump sum payment pursuant to the terms of the Work Force Adjustment Directive? **Yes () No ()**

If so, the Bidder must provide the following information:

- a. name of former public servant; _____
- b. conditions of the lump sum payment incentive; _____
- c. date of termination of employment; _____
- d. amount of lump sum payment; _____
- e. rate of pay on which lump sum payment is based; _____
- f. period of lump sum payment including:
 - start date _____
 - end date _____
 - and number of weeks _____



- g. number and amount (professional fees) of other contracts subject to the restrictions of a work force adjustment program.

Professional fees

Amount

5.2.6 Aboriginal Designation

Who is eligible?

- a) An Aboriginal business, which can be:
 - i) a band as defined by the Indian Act
 - ii) a sole proprietorship
 - iii) a limited company
 - iv) a co-operative
 - v) a partnership
 - vi) a not-for-profit organization

in which Aboriginal persons have at least 51 percent ownership and control,

OR

- b. A joint venture consisting of two or more Aboriginal businesses or an Aboriginal business and a non-Aboriginal business(es), provided that the Aboriginal business(es) has at least 51 percent ownership and control of the joint venture.

When an Aboriginal business has six or more full-time employees at the date of submitting the bid, at least thirty-three percent of them must be Aboriginal persons, and this ratio must be maintained throughout the duration of the contract.

The bidder must certify in its submitted bid that it is an Aboriginal business or a joint venture constituted as described above.

- Our Company is NOT an Aboriginal Firm, as identified above.
- Our Company is an Aboriginal Firm, as identified above.

Signature

Date



PART 6 - SECURITY AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

6.1 Security Requirements

There are no security requirements associated with this requirement.



PART 7 - RESULTING CONTRACT CLAUSES

The following clauses and conditions apply to and form part of any contract resulting from the bid solicitation.

7.1 Statement of Work

The Contractor must perform the Work in accordance with the Statement of Work at Annex A and the Contractor's technical bid dated _____. (*to be completed at contract award*)

7.2 Standard Clauses and Conditions

All clauses and conditions identified in the Contract by number, date and title are set out in the [Standard Acquisition Clauses and Conditions Manual](https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual) (<https://buyandsell.gc.ca/policy-and-guidelines/standard-acquisition-clauses-and-conditions-manual>) issued by Public Works and Government Services Canada.

7.2.1 General Conditions

[2010B \(2021-12-02\)](#), General Conditions – Professional Services - Medium Complexity, apply to and form part of the Contract.

- As applicable, replace references to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) with Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

7.2.2 Supplemental General Conditions

The following clauses apply to and form part of this contract:

[4007](#) (2010-08-16), Canada to Own Intellectual Property Rights in Foreground Information

7.3 Dispute Resolution

Mediation

If a dispute arising from this contract cannot be settled amicably through negotiation, then the parties agree in good faith to submit the dispute to mediation as administered by the Arbitration and Mediation Institute of Canada Inc. (AMIC). The parties acknowledge receipt of the rules of AMIC. The cost of mediation shall be borne equally by the parties.

Arbitration

If the parties cannot resolve the dispute through mediation within sixty (60) days, the parties agree to submit the dispute to arbitration pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Act (Canada). The party requesting such arbitration shall do so by written notice to the other party/parties. The cost of the arbitration and fees of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties. The arbitration shall take place in the city where the contractor carries on business before a single arbitrator to be chosen jointly by the parties. If the parties cannot agree on the choice of arbitrator within thirty (30) days of written notice to submit the dispute to arbitration, each party will choose a representative who will select the arbitrator.



The parties may determine the procedure to be followed by the arbitrator in conducting the proceedings, or may ask the arbitrator to do so. The arbitrator shall issue a written award within thirty (30) days of hearing the parties. The award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction and enforced as a judgment of that court.

Meaning of "Dispute"

The parties agree that the word "dispute" in this clause refers to a dispute of fact or of law, other than a dispute of public law.

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to Subsection 22.1(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* will, on request or consent of the parties to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve any dispute between the parties respecting the interpretation or application of a term and condition of this contract and their consent to bear the cost of such process, provide to the parties a proposal for an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve their dispute. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by e-mail at boa.opo@boa-opo.gc.ca.

7.4 Security Requirements

7.4.1 There is no security requirement applicable to the Contract.

7.5 Term of Contract

7.5.1 Period of the Contract

The period of the Contract is from date of Contract to June 30, 2022 inclusive.

7.6 Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements (CLCAs)

The Contract is not subject to any Comprehensive Land Claims Agreements.

7.7 Authorities

7.7.1 Contracting Authority

The Contracting Authority for the Contract is:

Name: Julia Pace
Title: Procurement Specialist
Organization: Natural Resources Canada
Address: 1 Challenger Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
Telephone: 902-719-4856
E-mail address: Julia.pace@nrca-rncan.gc.ca

The Contracting Authority is responsible for the management of the Contract and any changes to the Contract must be authorized in writing by the Contracting Authority. The Contractor must not perform work in excess of or outside



the scope of the Contract based on verbal or written requests or instructions from anybody other than the Contracting Authority.

7.7.2 Project Authority (to be provided at contract award)

The Project Authority for the Contract is:

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

The Project Authority is the representative of the department or agency for whom the Work is being carried out under the Contract and is responsible for all matters concerning the technical content of the Work under the Contract. Technical matters may be discussed with the Project Authority; however, the Project Authority has no authority to authorize changes to the scope of the Work. Changes to the scope of the Work can only be made through a contract amendment issued by the Contracting Authority.

7.7.3 Contractor's Representative (to be provided at contract award)

Name:

Title:

Organization:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail address

7.8 Proactive Disclosure of Contracts with Former Public Servants

By providing information on its status, with respect to being a former public servant in receipt of a [Public Service Superannuation Act](#) (PSSA) pension, the Contractor has agreed that this information will be reported on departmental websites as part of the published proactive disclosure reports, in accordance with [Contracting Policy Notice: 2019-01](#) of the Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada.

7.9 Payment

7.9.1 Basis of Payment – Firm Price

In consideration of the Contractor satisfactorily completing all of its obligations under the Contract, the Contractor will be paid a firm price as specified in Annex B for a cost of \$ _____ (*insert the amount at contract award*). Customs duties are included and Applicable Taxes are extra.



Canada will not pay the Contractor for any design changes, modifications or interpretations of the Work, unless they have been approved, in writing, by the Contracting Authority before their incorporation into the Work.

7.9.2 *Method of Payment*

Milestone Payments

Canada will make milestone payments in accordance with the Schedule of Milestones detailed in the Contract and the payment provisions of the Contract if:

- a. an accurate and complete claim for payment, and any other document required by the Contract have been submitted in accordance with the invoicing instructions provided in the Contract;
- b. all work associated with the milestone and as applicable any deliverable required has been completed and accepted by Canada.

7.10 **Invoicing Instructions**

Invoices shall be submitted as follows:

E-mail:

invoiceimaging-servicedimageriedesfactures@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Note: Attach "PDF" file. No other formats will be accepted

Invoices and all documents relating to a contract must be submitted on the Contractor's own form and shall bear the Contract number: _____

Invoicing Instructions to suppliers: <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/procurement/3485>

7.11 **Certifications and Additional Information**

7.11.1 *Compliance*

Unless specified otherwise, the continuous compliance with the certifications provided by the Contractor in its bid or precedent to contract award, and the ongoing cooperation in providing additional information are conditions of the Contract and failure to comply will constitute the Contractor in default. Certifications are subject to verification by Canada during the entire period of the Contract.

7.12 **Applicable Laws**

The Contract must be interpreted and governed, and the relations between the parties determined, by the laws in force in Ontario.



7.13 Priority of Documents

If there is a discrepancy between the wording of any documents that appear on the list, the wording of the document that first appears on the list has priority over the wording of any document that subsequently appears on the list.

- a) the Articles of Agreement;
- b) the supplemental general conditions [4007](#) (2010-08-16) - Canada to Own Intellectual Property Rights in Foreground Information;
- c) the general conditions [2010B](#) (2021-12-02) Professional services (medium complexity);
- d) Annex A, Statement of Work;
- e) Annex B, Basis of Payment;
- f) the Contractor's bid dated _____.

7.14 Foreign Nationals (Canadian Contractor OR Foreign Contractor)

SACC Manual clause [A2000C](#) (2006-06-16) Foreign Nationals (Canadian Contractor)

OR

SACC Manual clause [A2001C](#) (2006-06-16) Foreign Nationals (Foreign Contractor)

7.15 Insurance

The Contractor is responsible for deciding if insurance coverage is necessary to fulfill its obligation under the Contract and to ensure compliance with any applicable law. Any insurance acquired or maintained by the Contractor is at its own expense and for its own benefit and protection. It does not release the Contractor from or reduce its liability under the Contract.

7.16 Contract Administration

The parties understand that the Procurement Ombudsman appointed pursuant to Subsection 22.1(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* will review a complaint filed by (*insert "the supplier" or "the contractor" or "the name of the entity awarded this contract"*) respecting administration of this contract if the requirements of Subsection 22.2(1) of the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act* and Sections 15 and 16 of the *Procurement Ombudsman Regulations* have been met, and the interpretation and application of the terms and conditions and the scope of the work of this contract are not in dispute. The Office of the Procurement Ombudsman may be contacted by telephone at 1-866-734-5169 or by e-mail at boa.opo@boa-opo.gc.ca.



ANNEX A - STATEMENT OF WORK

SW1 Title

Removal of Cerium from REE Sulphate Solution

SW2 Background

Global demand for critical minerals is increasing to support the transition to a low emissions global economy. Canada can leverage its mining and processing expertise and world leading environmental, social and governance credentials, and become the global supplier of choice for clean and advanced technologies. CanmetMINING is undertaking a significant effort in the research and development of critical minerals, such as rare earth elements (REE), nickel, cobalt, vanadium, graphite and lithium, in order to help advance Canadian mining projects to production and maximize Canadian value and benefits.

Cerium, a light rare earth element, is mainly used in the industry as a catalyst and polishing media. Because cerium is abundant in many REE enriched ores, it is often in excess supply. It is commonly known that cerium (IV) can be obtained from cerium (III) by oxidation, which provides a way to separate cerium from the rest of the REE. An early removal of cerium can significantly minimize the size and cost of the downstream REE separation plant. In 2019, under the CanmetMINING REE R&D Program, the Université Laval completed a study on the *Benchmarking of Rare Earth Elements Separation in Canada* [1]. This work confirmed that the production of cerium using solvent extraction is not economically justified because the cost of separating cerium exceeds the value of the cerium product. The report noted two main benefits in rejecting cerium: the reduction of base and acid consumption in solvent extraction, and the increase in the separation factor between La and Pr. The report identified assessing the effectiveness of various Ce removal methods prior to SX, and the understanding of their costs and potential REE losses as an important area of future study.

Subsequently, CanmetMINING conducted research to examine parameters affecting the early removal of cerium from an enriched REE chloride solution by oxidation using calcium hypochlorite [2]. CanmetMINING also collaborated with the University of Toronto to investigate cerium removal from chloride solution using hydrogen peroxide as the oxidant [3]. This study identified optimal conditions for effective cerium oxidation and precipitation with minimal REE losses in a chloride system. Similar research into strategies of removing cerium from a sulphate media is of value to the REE industry.

[1] Turgeon, K., Boulanger J.F. and Bazin, C. (2019). *Benchmarking of Rare Earth Elements separation in Canada*. Report prepared by the University of Laval for CanmetMINING, Natural Resources Canada.

[2] Sauber, M. (2018). Davis, B. et al (Eds.) *Oxidative removal of cerium from rare earth elements mixed chloride solution*. Paper presented at Extraction 2018, the Minerals, Metals and Materials Series, Ottawa, Canada, August 26-29, 2018.

[3] Chemical Engineering Research Consultants Ltd. (2021). *Early Removal of Cerium*. Report prepared by the University of Toronto for CanmetMINING, Natural Resources Canada.

SW3 Context and Objectives

Cerium can be oxidized and removed in various processes within a REE process flowsheet, depending on the operating conditions selected. In order to define a scope for this study that would be applicable and/or relevant to



all Canadian REE projects, this study will focus on removing cerium, by oxidation, in an enriched and purified REE sulphate solution, prior to feeding into a downstream REE separation circuit. Building on the current state of knowledge on early cerium removal within this context, the objective of this study is to gain knowledge on the factors and conditions that allow for effective cerium rejection at near-zero REE losses.

The feed REE sulphate solution for this study will be a mixture of light and heavy REE. For the purpose of designing the work plan to achieve the research objective, a composition of the bulk REE solution is provided below for reference. NRCan and the Contractor will jointly finalize the solution composition following the award of the contract.

REE	Concentration (g/L)	Impurities	Concentration (g/L)
La	5.2	Al	2.9
Ce (III)	11.7	Fe (III)	1.3
Pr	1.3	Mg	0.5
Nd	5.1	Ca	0.4
Sm	0.9	Na	0.1
Eu	0.04	K	0.05
Gd	0.7	Mn	0.4
Tb	0.1		
Dy	0.5		
Ho	0.1		
Er	0.3		
Tm	0.03		
Yb	0.2	Solution pH	1.05
Lu	0.02	Free Acid (g/L)	12.6
Y	3.0		

SW4 Project Requirements

SW4.1 Tasks, Deliverables, Milestones and Schedule

Propose, design and execute a test program, consisting of both batch and continuous studies, to investigate one cerium removal strategy. The proposed removal strategy must be deemed to be feasible and applicable to the context of Canadian REE Projects. The proposed work plan and schedule must consider the cost of obtaining the REE feed for this work, and the required cost and time for performing chemical analysis of testwork products. It is strongly suggested that all analytical work be completed in a consistent manner at one analytical facility.

The following tasks are to be performed:

- 1) Perform a thorough review of background literature relevant to the cerium removal strategy proposed. This review should cover any recent publications not previously discussed by the 2021 University of Toronto report [3].



- 2) Prepare a synthetic REE sulphate solution based on the specifications provided/agreed upon at project initiation.
- 3) Conduct the batch testwork program in accordance with the proposed work plan. Analyze test solutions and precipitates, and perform metal balance of the individual cerium removal tests. Investigate operating parameters that may affect the efficiency of the process, and that can lead to improved rejection, reduced losses, reduced cost etc.
- 4) Using the optimal operating conditions identified from the bench-scale findings, validate the results achievable by conducting continuous experiment(s). Analyze test solution and precipitates, and perform metal balance of the individual cerium removal tests. Investigate any discrepancies in the results between the batch and continuous testing, if applicable.
- 5) Provide a written report that summarizes all the results and findings obtained from the test program, particularly the rejection extent of cerium and the losses of other REE incurred. The report should also include comments on the feasibility and applicability of the proposed cerium removal strategy for Canadian REE Projects and recommendations for future works.

Tasks and Deliverables:

Task 1: An initial meeting within ten (10) working days of signing the contract. The date, type (telephone or video-conference) will be decided jointly between NRCan and the supplier. The objective of the meeting is to discuss the proposal, in general, and to clarify the schedule and the work breakdown table.

Task 2: Progress Review Meetings as per schedule determined during Task 1.

Task 3/Deliverable 1: Progress Report. The Contractor must provide a written progress report by March 30, 2022 that summarizes the results to date.

Task 4/Deliverable 2: Presentation. The Contractor must attend and present the results and findings at an REE technical workshop, date TBD.

Task 4: Draft Report. The Contractor must provide one electronic copy of the draft report, which must contain all the study findings as per the Statement of Work by June 16, 2022. Natural Resources Canada will review and provide comments to the Contractor within five (5) working days after receiving the draft report.

Task 5/ Deliverable 3: Final Report. Submission of the final report (in English), which must address all changes/comments provided by NRCan in Deliverable 5. One electronic copy must be received by NRCan by June 30, 2022.

Schedule:

Task	Deliverable / Milestone	Dates
1	Initial Meeting	Within 10 working days of Contract Award Date.



2	Progress Meetings	As per schedule decided in Task 1
3	Progress Report	March 30, 2022
4	Presentation	May 2022 (tentative)
5	Draft Report	June 16, 2022
6	Final report	June 30, 2022

SW.5.0 OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SOW

SW.5.1 Contractor’s Obligations

- In addition to the obligations outlined in Section SW3 and 4 of this Statement of Work, the Contractor shall:
- submit all written reports in electronic Microsoft Office Word format;
- participate in telephone or video-conferences, as needed; and/or,

Scientific Integrity Policy:

In satisfying the requirements of this agreement, the Recipient is encouraged to comply with the provisions and intent of the NRCan Scientific Integrity Policy (SIP) and to discharge its contractual obligations in support of research, science, or related activities in a manner consistent with all relevant NRCan SIP provisions. For more information on the Scientific Integrity Policy, please visit the NRCan website at: <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/scientific-integrity/21665#a20>

SW.5.2 NRCan’s Obligations

- provide comments on draft reports within five (5 working days) and/or,
- provide other assistance or support.

SW.5.3 Location of Work, Work Site and Delivery Point

The work will be completed at the Contractor’s place of business.



ANNEX B - BASIS OF PAYMENT

1. Firm Price - Milestone Payments

Milestone #	Description of Milestone	Due Date	Firm Price (Applicable Taxes Excluded)
1	Initial Meeting	Within 10 working days of Contract Award Date (CAD).	
2	Progress Meetings	As per schedule decided in Deliverable 1	
3	Progress Report	March 30, 2022	\$ _____ 50%
4	Presentation	Date to be determined	\$ _____ 10%
5	Draft Report	June 16, 2022	
6	Final report	June 30, 2022	\$ _____ 40%
Total Firm Price (applicable taxes excluded):			\$ _____



APPENDIX “1” - EVALUATION CRITERIA

Bidders are advised to address these criteria in the following order and in sufficient depth in their proposals to enable a thorough assessment. NRCan’s assessment will be based solely on the information contained within the proposal. NRCan may confirm information or seek clarification from bidders.

Bidders are advised that only listing experience without providing any supporting data to describe responsibilities, duties and relevance to the criteria will not be considered demonstrated for the purpose of this evaluation.

The Bidder should provide complete details as to where, when (month and year) and how (through which activities/responsibilities) the stated qualifications/experience were obtained. Experience gained during formal education shall not be considered work experience. All criteria for work experience shall be obtained in a legitimate work environment as opposed to an educational setting. Co-op terms are considered work experience provided they are related to the required services.

Bidders are also advised that the month(s) of experience listed for a project whose time frame overlaps that of another referenced project will only be counted once. For example: project one time frame is July 2001 to December 2001; project two time frame is October 2001 to January 2002; the total months of experience for these two project references is seven (7) months.

1. Technical Criteria

1.1 Mandatory Evaluation Criteria

The Mandatory Criteria listed below will be evaluated on a simple pass/fail basis. Proposals which fail to meet the mandatory criteria will be deemed non-responsive.

Item	Mandatory Requirement	Compliant (Yes/No)	Reference to Bidder’s Proposal
M1	<p>Work Plan</p> <p>The Bidder MUST provide a detailed work plan specifically describing the work to be done to meet the requirements with a full description of how all deliverables described in this Statement of Work will be met.</p> <p>The work plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of the Project Manager (primary contact); - Detailed information on the work to be performed, a complete description of the activities to be carried out and the approach to completing the activities. - A table showing the breakdown of all activities to be performed, the anticipated number of work hours to complete each task, with the anticipated schedule including all deliverable dates. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
M2	Bidder Proposed Resources’ Experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	



<p>Each of the following MUST be met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The Bidder MUST proposed at least one (1) resource with hydrometallurgical research experience related specifically to the processing of rare earth elements. → The Bidder must prove resource's experience with a minimum 2 rare earth research projects within the last five (5) years prior to the RFP closing date.2) The Bidder MUST proposed at least one resource with experience in conducting bench-scale hydrometallurgy testwork. → The Bidder must prove resource's experience with a minimum 2 projects within the last five (5) years) prior to RFP closing date. <p>To demonstrate the experience, the bidder MUST provide a curriculum vitae (CV) for each proposed resource, and indicate how the proposed resource(s) meet the above two criteria.</p> <p>Note: An individual can address more than one of the items above if qualified.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	
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1.2 Evaluation of rated criteria

The criteria contained herein will be used by NRCan to evaluate each proposal that has met all of the mandatory criteria.

Proposals must achieve the stated minimum points required overall for the rated criteria to be assessed as responsive under the point rated technical criteria section; proposals not meeting the minimum required points will be deemed non-responsive.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Point Rated Requirements:				
Item	Requirement	Points Breakdown for each requirement:	Max Points	Illustrated Compliance
R1	<p>Bidder Proposal Format:</p> <p>The proposal should be typed using at least a 10-point Arial font, and not exceed fifteen (15) pages, CVs and realized projects description excluded.</p> <p>Note: If the proposal exceeds the maximum number of pages, NRCan reserves the right to review only the first fifteen (15) pages at the proposal evaluation stage.</p>	<p>Maximum 4 Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal is typed and using 10-point Arial Font – (2 Points) • Proposal is a maximum of 15 pages (excluding CV's and realized projects – (2 Points)) 	4	
R2	<p>Bidder Proposed Core Team's Academic Qualifications:</p> <p>Note: To be considered a core team member, each proposed resource should contribute to at least 5% of the total anticipated work hours, as provided in R4.</p>	<p>Maximum 8 points to be awarded, as follows (cumulative):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical diploma (1 point) • Bachelor degree level (2 points) • Master degree level (3 points) • Doctoral degree level (4 points) 	8	



Point Rated Requirements:				
Item	Requirement	Points Breakdown for each requirement:	Max Points	Illustrated Compliance
R3	<p>Bidder Proposed Core Team’s Experience:</p> <p>Bidder proposed core team’s hydrometallurgical research experience related specifically to the precipitation and/or separation of cerium from other REE.</p> <p>Up to three (3) project examples with <u>brief descriptions to be provided</u>.</p> <p>Project examples used previously in M2 can be used for this requirement, if relevant.</p>	<p>Description demonstrates the relevance of the experience (6 points per project example for a total of 18 points). Breakdown of points for <u>each project example</u>, as follows:</p> <p>Description and relevance of the project to the precipitation and/or separation of cerium from other REE (3 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points: related to the precipitation and/or separation of cerium from other REE - 2 points: related to the precipitation and/or separation of REE, in bulk or as individual elements - 1 points: related to the precipitation and/or separation of specific metals - 0 point: not relevant <p>Name of the resource involved with the project and their level of involvement (3 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points: was directly involved and was the lead in the whole project - 2 points: was responsible for some parts of the project - 1 point: participated in some decision - 0 point: played a minimal role 	18	
R4	<p>Work Plan</p> <p>Bidder’s work plan clearly provides an approach that will lead to the successful completion of the project.</p> <p>The proposal will be evaluated based on the following 5 elements:</p>	<p>Bidder’s work plan clearly explains how their approach will complete all the requirements for this project. Breakdown of points for the elements, as follows:</p>	42	



Point Rated Requirements:				
Item	Requirement	Points Breakdown for each requirement:	Max Points	Illustrated Compliance
R4-1	1) Rationale and Applicability: Detailed explanation and justification on why the proposed removal strategy is selected for research, and how it is applicable in the context of Canadian REE projects	1) Rationale and Applicability (9 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated understanding of the need for removing cerium (2 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 points: Excellent - 1 points: Poor - 0 points: Unsatisfactory Explained with clarity the rationale and justification for the selected strategy (4 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 points: Excellent - 3 points: Very Good - 2 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory Explained with clarity why the selected strategy is relevant and applicable for Canadian projects (3 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points: Excellent - 2 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory 		
R4-2	2) Research Approach: Detailed description of the overall approach, including feed solution preparation, equipment to be used, and samples analysis	2) Research Approach (3 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explained how the feed solution will be prepared (1 point) Explained the equipment that will be used (1 point) Explained what samples will be analyzed, using what methods and where (1 point) 		
R4-3	3 Experimental Plan: Provided an experimental plan suitable for achieving the research goal of removing cerium, including the number of batch and continuous tests,	3) Experimental Plan (12 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented with clarity a robust and suitable research plan to achieve the research goal (6 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 points: Excellent - 4 points: Very good 		



Point Rated Requirements:					
Item	Requirement	Points Breakdown for each requirement:		Max Points	Illustrated Compliance
	operating parameters to be investigated, verification of results, analysis and interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory • Incorporated approaches that can ensure the quality of the research outcome (6 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 points: Excellent - 4 points: Very Good - 2 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory 			
R4-4	<p>4) Mitigate Challenges:</p> <p>Discuss potential technical challenges that could arise and possible mitigating solutions to achieve the research goal of removing cerium.</p> <p>Up to two (2) challenges and solutions with <u>brief descriptions to be provided.</u></p>	<p>4) Mitigate Challenges (4 points per challenge-solution for a total of 8 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained with clarity a technical challenge that might be encountered (2 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 points: Excellent - 1 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory • Explained with clarity how the challenge could be mitigated (2 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 points: Excellent - 1 points: Good - 0 points: Unsatisfactory 			
R4-5	<p>5) Project Schedule:</p> <p>Clearly illustrated the level of effort and resource assigned for each task, schedule and deliverable dates, and strategies for ensuring deliverables are met on time.</p>	<p>5) Project Schedule (10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocated reasonable number of work hours, and identified the name of the resource assigned for completing each task (4 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 points: Excellent - 3 points: Very good - 2 points: Good - 0 point: Unsatisfactory • Included a reasonable project schedule and deliverable dates (3 points) 			



Point Rated Requirements:				
Item	Requirement	Points Breakdown for each requirement:	Max Points	Illustrated Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points: Excellent - 2 points: Good - 0 point: Unsatisfactory • Included strategies for meeting the deliverables time (3 points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 points: Excellent - 2 points: Good - 0 point: Unsatisfactory <p><i>A key to the terms "Excellent, Very Good, Good, and Unsatisfactory is depicted in the Evaluation Grid shown below</i></p>		
Total Points Available			72	
Minimum point required for considered			43	

The evaluation grid described below will be used to evaluate the Bidders' proposals based on each rated criterion.

EVALUATION GRID	
Excellent	Rated criteria are covered in-depth and submitted information demonstrates a complete and deep understanding of the criterion elements.
Very good	Submitted information clearly indicates a full understanding of the criterion elements.
Good	Submitted information clearly indicates a full understanding of most of the criterion, but not all.
Unsatisfactory	Submitted information indicates some understanding of criteria outlined, but does not demonstrate a full understanding of the criterion.



2. Financial Criteria

2.1 Mandatory Financial Criteria

Bidders must provide financial details as requested in this appendix. Proposals which do not contain pricing details as requested below shall be considered incomplete and non-responsive.

2.1.1 Funding Limitation

The maximum funding available for the Contract resulting from the bid solicitation is **\$60,000.00** (Applicable Taxes extra). Bids valued in excess of this amount will be considered non-responsive. This disclosure does not commit Canada to pay the maximum funding available.

This maximum **included a) the Price to perform the Work, b) any Travel and Living and c) Miscellaneous Expenses that may be required.**

Any bids received in excess of this maximum funding will be automatically deemed non-responsive and will not be evaluated.



APPENDIX 2 - FINANCIAL PROPOSAL FORM

1. Firm Price

Bidder tendered all-inclusive firm price to perform the work is in Canadian funds, applicable taxes excluded. Any Travel and Living Expenses and other miscellaneous expenses must be included in the firm price.

Description	Firm Price (Applicable Taxes Excluded)
Removal of Cerium from REE Sulphate Solution	
Total Firm Price for Financial Proposal Evaluation:	\$ _____