



Canada: Integrated Soldier System Project (ISSP)

Lucy Latka
July 2008

BACKGROUND

The Government of Canada (GOC) recently announced an Integrated Soldier System Project (ISSP) that will produce a modern, integrated system of electronic devices, weapons accessories, operational clothing and personal equipment suited to living, moving and fighting on complex hostile terrain. This project targets the needs of soldiers at the individual and small-team tactical level on the technologically advanced battlefield. Preliminary project approval has been received from Defence Minister Peter MacKay and the project will now proceed to the Treasury Board for initial funding approval. The ISSP is projected to receive Treasury Board funding approval in the very near future, at which point LCol Jacques Levesque, the Project Manager for the ISSP will be putting together a team to develop the ISSP Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP is forecasted to be released sometime in late 2009.

The \$310 million program will provide equipment to allow troops to track each other as they move throughout the battlefield, as well as feed communications and targeting information into their helmets or to a small personal data device they would each carry. The Canadian Forces is open to using different types of technology as the equipment will be introduced in cycles so it can take advantage of developments as they are developed.

Currently, Canadian soldiers carry battery powered equipment such as radios, night-vision goggles and global positioning systems. A Canadian soldier, on the front-line, carries a maximum of 40 batteries to accommodate their current equipment. Under the ISSP, the weight troops carry would be reduced by combining equipment into an integrated package with a single power unit and a data-bus. This upgrade would allow soldiers to communicate with fellow soldiers more quickly without the burden of the additional weight.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES

The first deliveries, with various changes in the gear being incorporated as technology advances, will be scheduled for 2010, with full operational capability expected in 2017. This can translate into approximately 17,000 integrated soldier systems being purchased by the Department of National Defence, thereby creating opportunities for U.S. suppliers of such materials.

Several companies have responded to the initial Letter of Interest posted on [MERX](#), the Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS), by [Public Works and Government Services Canada \(PWGSC\)](#) for the (ISSP). The technological needs of the project may require a number of companies to join forces with major systems integrators to meet the military's requirements. This will create opportunities for U.S. systems integrators to act as the prime contractor, as well as create opportunities for other U.S. companies to provide their specialized solutions to the prime contractor.

It is projected that several major systems integrators, from all parts of the globe, will be responding to the Request for Proposal, when issued. The U.S. Commercial Service has compiled a list of these organizations. This list is available by contacting lucy.latka@mail.doc.gov.

If you are interested in discussing this project with the Canadian [Department of National Defence](#), please contact:

LCol Jacques Levesque, Project Manager, ISSP
Department of National Defence
Tel: (819) 997-9907; e-mail: Levesque.JHJ@forces.gc.ca

Emad Rassi, Procurement and Finance Manager ISSP
Department of National Defence
Tel: 819 997-9955; e-mail: Rassi.E@forces.gc.ca

Mary Osbourne, Administrative Officer ISSP
Department of National Defence
Tel: 819-997-5272; e-mail: Osbourne.MJ@forces.gc.ca

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For More Information

The U.S. Commercial Service in Ottawa, Canada can be contacted via email at: lucylatka@mail.doc.gov
Phone: (613) 688-5219; Fax: (613) 238-5999; or visit our website: www.buyusa.gov/canada.

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Comments and Suggestions: We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this market research. You can e-mail us your comments/suggestions to: Customer.Care@mail.doc.gov. Please include the name of the applicable market research in your e-mail. We greatly appreciate your feedback.

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