



Canada: Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV) Services in the Defence Industry

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BACKGROUND

On November 5, 2008, the Government of Canada (GOC) released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Provision of Services for a Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (SUAV) System. The purpose of the proposal is to solicit bids from qualified suppliers of SUAV Intelligence Surveillance Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance (ISTAR) Imagery and Special Purpose Payload sensor services. The release of this RFP closely follows the proposal of the Joint UAV Surveillance and Target Acquisition System (JUSTAS), a Department of National Defence program with the aim of purchasing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for domestic and overseas overland operations.

The GOC and DND are dedicating significant resources to UAV and SUAV projects over the next few years. Unarmed UAVs are currently being leased from the Canadian company [MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd](#) for use in Canada's mission in Kandahar and the Canadian military currently operates the Sperwer UAV, produced by the French company [Sagem Défense Sécurité](#). Additionally, if approved, development of the RFP for the proposed \$500 million JUSTAS procurement project is expected to begin next summer for release in the Winter of 2009/2010.

The SUAV services required are intended to provide Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) support to Canadian Forces (CF) units and sub-units who are conducting missions in Kandahar, Afghanistan and other tasks as directed by Canada. Armed UAVs have already played a key role the last several years in Afghanistan and Pakistan, including their use in the mission against Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgents. UAVs are preferred for work that is otherwise too dangerous, dull or dirty for humans and can allow for more airspace and free access to communications bandwidth. UAVs can be remotely controlled or fly autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans and are also designed to fly at lower altitudes and speeds than manned aircraft.

SUAV SERVICES RFP

The system laid out in the RFP will concentrate on the provision of persistent Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) video surveillance of the quality required to determine if individuals are armed or if they are carrying out actions that pose a threat to coalition forces, such as planting an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The period of contract for this SUAV program is one year from the date of award of a contract plus two one-year option periods. The current concept of operations is for Canadian Forces personnel to maintain operational control over the system and for a contractor to provide complete support for the system in Canada and at a secure Main Operating Base (MOB).

Equipment reliability is a key component of this project. The UAV System must be reliable and maintainable in the ambient environment of any designated area of operations. In other words, it must be able to successfully launch, operate and recover the aerial vehicle (AV) in all climactic/environmental conditions with the exception of extreme or severe cold zones with temperatures below -28°C . The system must also repeatedly launch AVs, conduct missions and recover the AVs in conditions that enable rapid inspection, repair and quick return to service. The system must use the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) system for primary navigation and positional information and have a low visibility colour scheme suitable for typical daylight operations. Available capacity to record and store a minimum of 100 hours of Full Motion Video (FMV) and the accompanying metadata is also a mandatory requirement of this system. The AVs must also have the capability to automatically track objects with the camera as the AV independently moves into the correct location.

The contractor is required to provide an SUAV system, qualified personnel, equipment, spares and support services required to deliver and sustain ISR Service. Maintenance of the UAS is expected to be part of the responsibility of the contractor and obsolescence management is also expected to be an included part of the basic service. The contractor must provide and support training simulation capability to provide operators with a simulated environment for training and pre-mission rehearsal purposes and for practicing emergency drills and system procedures. The contractor must also comply with the requirements of ISO 9001:2000 Quality management systems requirements which are published by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The contractor's quality management system must address each requirement contained in the standard. Valid Facility Security Clearance at the level of NATO SECRET, with approved Document Safeguarding at the level of SECRET, issued by the Canadian Industrial Security Directorate, Public Works and Government Services Canada is also mandatory. In addition, personnel requiring access to PROTECTED/CLASSIFIED information, assets or sensitive work site(s) must EACH hold a valid personnel security screening at the level of RELIABILITY STATUS, CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. COMPANIES

The RFP for services for an SUAV system was released on [MERX](#), the Government Electronic Tendering System (GETS), by [Public Works and Government Services Canada \(PWGSC\)](#) and closes on December 5, 2008 at 2:00pm Eastern Standard Time (EST). The technological needs of the project may require a number of companies to join forces to meet the military's requirements, creating opportunities for U.S. companies to act as the prime contractor or to provide specialized solutions to the prime contractor. Companies interested in responding to the RFP or those that wish to discuss this project with the PWGSC Procurement Authority should contact:

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For More Information

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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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