



Savings | Choice | Service

Literacy Digital Tools and Research Digital Tools

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER #2020-366

(Final with Amendment)

Request for Proposals Issued On: June 12, 2020

Proponent's Information & OTP Demonstration Session: 2:00 pm on June 18, 2020

Proponent's Deadline to Submit Questions: 5:00 pm on June 24, 2020

**Proponent's Deadline to Submit Questions Related to
Addenda & Question and Answer Documents:** 5:00 pm on July 2, 2020

Closing Date: 2:00:00 pm on July 13, 2020 local time in Toronto, Ontario, Canada

All times specified in this RFP timetable are local times in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
Please refer to Section 5.1.1 for the complete RFP timetable.

OECEM shall not be obligated in any manner to any Proponent whatsoever until a written Master Agreement has been duly executed with a Supplier.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Objective of this RFP	5
1.2 Project Background	5
1.3 Project Advisory Committee	6
1.4 Overview of OECM	6
1.5 Use of OECM Master Agreements	7
1.6 The Ontario Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive	7
1.7 Trade Agreements	7
1.8 No Guarantee of Volume of Work	7
1.9 Rules of Interpretation	7
PART 2 – THE DELIVERABLES	9
2.1 Curriculum Compliance	9
2.2 Language	9
2.3 Functional Scope and Requirements	10
2.3.1 Category A: Literacy Digital Tools Requirements	10
2.3.2 Category B: Research Digital Tools Requirements	10
2.3.3 System Requirements	11
2.3.4 User Experience	11
2.3.5 User Statistics	11
2.3.6 System Help Functionality	12
2.3.7 System Security	12
2.3.8 Access Rights	12
2.3.9 Data Export	12
2.3.10 Data Validation	12
2.3.11 Data Residency	12
2.3.12 Integration	12
2.3.13 Configuration and Customization	13
2.3.14 Future Features	13
2.4 Implementation	13
2.5 Training	13
2.6 Ongoing Support and Services	14
2.6.1 Performance and Availability	15
2.6.2 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity	15
2.6.3 Release Management	15
2.7 Support to Customers	15
2.8 Transition In and Transition Out (Termination/Program Close Out)	16
2.9 Licences, Right to Use and Approvals	16
2.10 Invoicing	16
2.11 Order Management	17
2.12 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations	17
2.13 Social Procurement	17
2.14 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act	18
PART 3 – EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	19
3.1 Stages of Proposal Evaluation	19
3.2 Stage I – Review of Qualification Responses (Pass/Fail)	19
3.3 Stage II – Technical Response	19
3.4 Stage III – Commercial Response per Category	20

3.5	Stage IV – Cumulative Score	22
3.6	Stage V – Tie Break Process	22
3.7	Stage VI – Negotiations	22
3.8	Stage VII – Master Agreement Finalization	23
	PART 4 – MASTER AGREEMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT	24
4.1	Master Agreement Structure	24
4.1.1	No Contract until Execution of Written Master Agreement	24
4.1.2	Customer’s Usage of Master Agreements	24
4.1.3	No Guarantee of Volume of Work or Exclusivity of Master Agreement	25
4.2	Rates	25
4.2.1	Travel Expenses	25
4.2.2	Optional Rate Refresh	26
4.2.3	Optional Process to Add Other Systems	27
4.2.4	Pricing Audit and Management	27
4.2.5	Saving Calculation	27
4.2.6	OECM Geographical Zones	27
4.2.7	OECM Cost Recovery Fee	27
4.3	Supplier Management Support to OECM	28
4.3.1	Master Agreement Award and Launch	29
4.3.2	Promoting OECM Master Agreements	29
4.3.3	Supplier’s Performance Management Scorecard	30
4.3.4	OECM’s Supplier Recognition Program	30
4.3.5	Reporting to OECM	30
5.1	General Information and Instructions	31
5.1.1	RFP Timetable	31
5.1.2	Proponent’s Information and OTP Demonstration Session	32
5.1.3	Proponent to Follow Instructions	32
5.1.4	OECM’s Information in RFP Only an Estimate	32
5.1.5	Proponent’s Costs	32
5.2	Communication after RFP Issuance	32
5.2.1	Communication with OECM	32
5.2.2	Proponent to Review RFP	33
5.2.3	Proponent to Notify	33
5.2.4	All New Information to Proponents by way of Addenda	33
5.3	Proposal Submission Requirements	34
5.3.1	General	34
5.3.2	Proposal in English	34
5.3.3	Proposal Submission Requirements	34
5.3.4	Other Proposal Considerations	35
5.3.5	Proposal Receipt by OECM	35
5.3.6	Withdrawal of Proposal	35
5.3.7	Amendment of Proposal on OTP	35
5.3.8	Completeness of Proposal	35
5.3.9	Proposals Retained by OECM	35
5.3.10	Acceptance of RFP	35
5.3.11	Amendments to RFP	36
5.3.12	Proposals will not be Opened Publicly	36
5.3.13	Clarification of Proposals	36
5.3.14	Verification of Information	36
5.3.15	Proposal Acceptance	36
5.3.16	RFP Incorporated into Proposal	36

5.3.17	Exclusivity of Contract.....	36
5.3.18	Substantial Compliance	37
5.3.19	No Publicity or Promotion	37
5.4	Negotiations, Timelines, Notification and Debriefing.....	37
5.4.1	Negotiations with Preferred Proponent	37
5.4.2	Failure to Execute a Master Agreement.....	37
5.4.3	Master Agreement	37
5.4.4	Notification to Other Proponents.....	38
5.4.5	Debriefing	38
5.4.6	Bid Dispute Resolution.....	38
5.5	Prohibited Communications, and Confidential Information	38
5.5.1	Confidential Information of OECM	38
5.5.2	Confidential Information of the Proponent.....	38
5.5.3	Proponent’s Submission	39
5.5.4	Personal Information.....	39
5.5.5	Non-Disclosure Agreement.....	39
5.5.6	Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.....	39
5.5.7	Intellectual Property	39
5.6	Reserved Rights and Governing Law of OECM.....	39
5.6.1	General	39
5.6.2	Rights of OECM – Proponent	41
5.6.3	No Liability	41
5.6.4	Assignment.....	42
5.6.5	Entire RFP	42
5.6.6	Priority of Documents.....	42
5.6.7	Disqualification for Misrepresentation	42
5.6.8	References and Past Performance	42
5.6.9	Cancellation	42
5.6.10	Competition Act	42
5.6.11	Trade Agreements	42
5.6.12	Governing Law.....	43
	APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS.....	44
	APPENDIX B – FORM OF MASTER AGREEMENT	48
	APPENDIX C – COMMERCIAL RESPONSE.....	49
	APPENDIX D – OECM GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES	50
	APPENDIX E – OECM SCHOOL BOARD, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CUSTOMERS IN ONTARIO	51
	APPENDIX F – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	52
	APPENDIX G – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCORECARD	53
	APPENDIX H – CODE OF CONDUCT	55
	APPENDIX I – ESCALATION PROCESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.....	57

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

This non-binding Request for Proposals (“RFP”) is an invitation to obtain Proposals from qualified Proponents for a Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) Literacy Digital Tools and Research Digital Tools and Services (“the System”) on an as-and-when-required basis to support OECM Customer (“Customers”) as further described in Part 2 – the Deliverables (the “Deliverables”) in the following two (2) Categories below and as described in Part 4 – Master Agreement Structure and Management:

- (a) Category A – Literacy Digital Tools; and
- (b) Category B – Research Digital Tools.

A Proponent may submit a Proposal for one (1) or both Categories. Each Category will be evaluated, scored and awarded independently.

OECM intends to award one (1) or more Master Agreements, per Category, with an initial Term of the Master Agreement (“Term”) of three (3) years with an option in favour of OECM to extend the Term on the same terms and conditions for up to three (3) years.

This RFP is issued by OECM.

1.1 Objective of this RFP

The objective of this RFP includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Provide OECM Customers the ability to purchase the System to satisfy their requirements;
- (b) Reduce the costs of associated competitive procurement processes on an ongoing basis (i.e. fewer competitive procurement documents issued by Customers);
- (c) Maximize Customer’s savings through competitive, volume-discount pricing for the System supporting Digital Learning;
- (d) Be capable of providing quality System in a timely manner, demonstrating value for money;
- (e) Provide Customers with professional and responsive Customer support and account management; and,
- (f) Work in a cooperative manner with Customers, be flexible and innovative in providing quality System.

1.2 Project Background

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (“MEDU”), OECM added Literacy Digital Tools and Research Digital Tools as Sourcing Projects to its 2020 Sourcing Plan. OECM has been working together with MEDU to determine the requirements of this RFP.

In-perpetuity Educational Software Licences with the Ministry of Education

Through its former program called the Ontario Software Acquisition Program Advisory Committee (“OSAPAC”), the MEDU procured in-perpetuity licences for educational software from vendors.

- OSAPAC evaluated and made recommendations on which educational software the MEDU should procure.
- Based on OSAPAC’s advice, the MEDU conducted procurements for software licences that it made available to grades K-12 for publicly funded Ontario educational institutions.

The MEDU’s in-perpetuity OSAPAC licences do not have an expiration date. Many of the licences continue to be actively used by school boards and other publicly funded educational institutions.

The MEDU will continue to own these in-perpetuity licences for educational institutions’ use. Installation files and access codes for in-perpetuity licences will continue to be made available through www.osapac.ca.

1.3 Project Advisory Committee

The following Customers were involved with the development of the requirements set out in this RFP:

- (a) Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario;
- (b) Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir;
- (c) Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario;
- (d) École secondaire catholique Franco-Cité;
- (e) Halton Catholic District School Board;
- (f) Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board;
- (g) Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board;
- (h) Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board;
- (i) Limestone District School Board;
- (j) London Catholic District School Board;
- (k) Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- (l) Ottawa Catholic District School Board;
- (m) Peel District School Board;
- (n) Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland, & Clarington Catholic District School Board;
- (o) Toronto District School Board;
- (p) Trillium Lakelands District School Board;
- (q) Upper Canada District School Board;
- (r) Waterloo Catholic District School Board; and,
- (s) Waterloo Region District School Board.

The above Customers are **not**, in any way, committed to participating in the Master Agreement resulting from this RFP.

1.4 Overview of OECM

OECM is a trusted not-for-profit partner for Ontario's education sector, Broader Public Sector ("BPS") entities, Provincially Funded Organizations ("PFO"), Crown Corporations, and other not-for-profit organizations. OECM offers a comprehensive choice of collaboratively sourced and competitively priced products and services through its Marketplace, the goal of which is to generate savings, choice and service for its Customers.

Recognizing the power of collaboration, OECM is committed to fostering strong relationships with both Customers and suppliers by:

- (a) Actively sourcing products and services in an open, fair, transparent and competitive manner, compliant with BPS Procurement Directive and applicable trade agreements;
- (b) Establishing, promoting and managing product and service agreements used throughout its Customer community;
- (c) Supporting Customers' access and use of OECM agreements through analysis, reporting and the development of tools, guides, and other materials;
- (d) Effectively managing supplier contract performance while harnessing expertise and innovative ideas, to drive continuous improvements through a Supplier Relationship Management program;
- (e) Promoting OECM's Supplier Code of Conduct, based on its core values, to ensure that all supplier partners adhere to a set standard when conducting business with OECM and its Customers resulting in continuous, long-term success; and,
- (f) Supporting supplier partners through a Supplier Recognition Program.

1.5 Use of OEMC Master Agreements

As of March 31, 2020, nine hundred and twenty-two (922) Customers were using one (1) or more OEMC agreements with a cumulative spend of more than one-point-eight (1.8) billion dollars over the last ten (10) years. The annual spend for 2019 increased by twenty-four percent (24%) when compared to 2018.

More information about OEMC is available on our website - <http://www.oecm.ca/>.

1.6 The Ontario Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive

OECM, and the Customers they service, follow the Ontario BPS Procurement Directive. The directive sets out rules for designated BPS entities on the purchase of goods and services using public funds. The Procurement Directive is available here <https://www.doingbusiness.mgs.gov.on.ca/mbs/psb/psb.nsf/English/bps-procurementdirective>.

1.7 Trade Agreements

OECM procurements are undertaken within the scope of Chapter 5 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement ("CFTA"), Chapter 19 of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement ("CETA"), and within the scope of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Quebec and Ontario and are subject to such agreements, although the rights and obligations of the parties shall be governed by the specific terms of this RFP. For more information, refer to the Section 5.6.11.

1.8 No Guarantee of Volume of Work

Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve the Proponent from forming its own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP. Volumes are an estimate only and may not be relied on by the Proponent.

OECM makes no guarantee of the value or volume of work to be assigned to the Supplier.

The Master Agreement executed with the Supplier may not be an exclusive Master Agreement for the provision of the Deliverables. Customers may contract with others for the same or similar Deliverables to those described in this RFP.

1.9 Rules of Interpretation

This RFP shall be interpreted according to the following provisions, unless the context requires a different meaning:

- (a) Unless the context otherwise requires, wherever used herein the plural includes the singular, the singular includes the plural, and each of the masculine and feminine includes the other gender;
- (b) Words in the RFP shall bear their natural meaning;
- (c) References containing terms such as "includes" and "including", whether or not used with the words "without limitation" or "but not limited to", shall not be deemed limited by the specific enumeration of items but shall, in all cases, be deemed to be without limitation and construed and interpreted to mean "includes without limitation" and "including without limitation";
- (d) In construing the RFP, general words introduced or followed by the word "other" or "including" or "in particular" shall not be given a restrictive meaning because they are followed or preceded (as the case may be) by particular examples intended to fall within the meaning of the general words;
- (e) Unless otherwise indicated, time periods will be strictly applied; and,
- (f) The following terminology applies in the RFP:
 - i. The terms "must" and "shall" relate to a requirement the Supplier will be obligated to fulfil. Whenever the terms "must" or "shall" are used in relation to OEMC or the Supplier, such terms shall be construed and interpreted as synonymous and shall be construed to read "OECM shall" or the "Supplier shall", as the case may be;
 - ii. The term "should" relate to a requirement that OEMC would like the Supplier to fulfil; and,

- iii. The term “will” describe a procedure that is intended to be followed.

[End of Part 1]

PART 2 – THE DELIVERABLES

This Part of the RFP describes Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) Literacy Digital Tools and Research Digital Tools and Services (“the System”) Deliverables, per Category, which will be incorporated into the final Master Agreement.

The Supplier shall provide the System(s) that meet the requirements as laid out in the Deliverables. The requirements have been split into two (2) Categories as described below:

Category	Deliverables/Category Title	RFP Section Reference
Category A	Literacy Digital Tools	2.3.1
Category B	Research Digital Tools	2.3.2

Note: Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3.3 to 2.14 of Part 2 – Deliverables are applicable to both Categories.

The Proponent may choose to submit a Proposal for one (1) or both Categories. Each Category will be evaluated, scored and awarded independently.

2.1 Curriculum Compliance

Literacy is the ability to use language and images in rich and varied forms to read, write, listen, speak, view, represent, discuss and think critically about ideas. Literacy enables us to share information and to interact with others. Literacy is an essential tool for personal growth and active participation in a democratic society. Literacy involves the capacity to:

- access, manage, create and evaluate information
- think imaginatively and analytically
- communicate thoughts and ideas effectively
- apply metacognitive knowledge and skills
- develop a sense of self-efficacy and an interest in life-long learning

The development of literacy is a complex process that involves building prior knowledge, culture and experiences in order to instill new knowledge and deepen understanding of the same.

Approximately 1.4 million students attend Ontario's almost 4,000 publicly funded Ontario elementary schools (approx. 1.32 million English-language and 86,000 French-language students). The focus in these early years is to build a foundation in key areas that will help unlock each student's potential.

Approximately 630,000 students attend more than 880 publicly funded secondary schools in Ontario (approx. 606,000 English-language and 25,000 French-language students). Innovative programs that help students customize their learning are helping more students graduate.

The System shall be in compliance with the Ontario Curriculum for both or either French and English.

- English: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/curriculum.html>.
- French: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/teachers/curriculum.html>

In a case of change in the requirements; the System shall be adapted to be compliant with the new requirements in a timely manner (as defined by Customer and the Province of Ontario), according to the earliest school year start dates for any Customer. The Proponent shall be responsible for all costs related to further improvements of the System to keep it in compliance with provincial requirements.

2.2 Language

The primary language of the System, including but not limited to the user interface, content (as applicable), support, help and other functionalities, shall be either English, French or both.

The content shall be displayed in the full character set of the language it is developed for. If users create, store, or modify content as part of the function of the System shall display and allow users to create, modify, store and retrieve content using the full character sets of the language it is written in both English and/or French languages. The French language resources should be developed and written in Canadian French.

All related documentation shall be available in both English and French languages, using correct terminology that is compatible with the curriculum of the Ontario Ministry of Education.

The System shall also support search and sort functionality using the full character sets of the language it is developed in, including the use of UTF8 as the preferable character set of English and/or French languages, including an ignore accents feature (e.g. à and â letters show as results of searching the letter a).

The System should have the capability to be multilingual based on the Customer specific requirements.

2.3 Functional Scope and Requirements

The System shall be based on current and up to date technologies which will remain updated, supported and maintained throughout the Term of the Agreement.

2.3.1 Category A: Literacy Digital Tools Requirements

Below are the requirements specific for Literacy Digital Tools:

- a) Age appropriate content that supports reading, writing, listening, speaking, media literacy representing and thinking and research for any of the following:
 - Kindergarten to Grade 3;
 - Grades 4-6;
 - Grades 7-8; and
 - Grades 9-12

- b) Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy examples include:
 - a. reflects student backgrounds and identities;
 - b. content created by authors, writers, artists and other creators reflecting diverse identities and lived experiences
 - c. provide challenge, support and engagement for all learners;
 - d. offer authentic and rich tasks;
 - e. increase opportunities for student voice;
 - f. value multiple ways of knowing and demonstrating learning; and
 - g. critical literacy, including engaging students in analyzing and evaluating the meaning of texts as they relate to issues of social justice and equity

- c) Supports the assessment of literacy skills, information literacy, inquiry and learning in alignment with Growing Success policy program:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/growSuccess.pdf> / Faire croître le succès
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/policyfunding/growSuccessfr.pdf>

2.3.2 Category B: Research Digital Tools Requirements

Below are the requirements specific for Research Digital Tools:

- a) Informational databases should support the student inquiry process exploring, investigating, creating and processing for any of the following:
 - Kindergarten to Grade 3;
 - Grades 4-6;

- Grades 7-8; and
- Grades 9-12

For details please visit: <http://www.togetherforlearning.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/INQUIRY-POSTER-English-Linked1.pdf>

The following requirements are applicable to **both** Literacy Digital Tools and Research Digital Tools and Services (the "System").

2.3.3 System Requirements

- Provide entry points and support differentiation and universal design for learning for a wide range of learners (including students who may require accommodations and modifications e.g., students with Special Education needs, English and French language learners)
- Built in functionality such as: audio/read-aloud, built in glossaries, translation capabilities (for research databases)
- Systems should support accessibility tools incorporated within operating systems and external tools such as Read & Write
- The content shall be aligned to the Ontario curriculum (targeted toward Ontario students), draws from Canadian sources and includes content representing the diverse Canadian population and include those voices and experiences.
- The System will include appropriate learning resources to support staff (lesson plans, curriculum search, promotional materials, etc.).

The French-language System and resources support Ontario's Politique d'aménagement linguistique <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/fre/document/policy/linguistique/linguistique.pdf> / Aménagement linguistique Policy <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/linguistique/policyguide.pdf>, for example, by incorporating cultural references, allowing the development of French-language competencies and promoting positive French-Language identity building.

2.3.4 User Experience

The System shall be easy to learn, use and navigate, and be supported by in-application, appropriate, self-serve documentation and/or training/tutorials to facilitate self-learning of the user. It should include visual conformity throughout the System for all user interfaces and be fully responsive where intended. The System shall provide 24/7 access to users.

The System should allow the user to sign in with a cloud service provider account including, but not limited to, Office 365, Google and Desire2Learn (D2L).

The System shall be mobile accessible, supporting both iOS and Android operating systems.

The System shall be accessible through common Internet Browser types, including but not limited to Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Edge and Firefox.

The System shall conform to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

The System shall comply with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) as per section 2.14 of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

English: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r11191>

French: <https://www.ontario.ca/fr/lois/reglement/r11191>

2.3.5 User Statistics

The System should provide User statistics, defined by the Customer and accessible by board administrators. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Usage statistics – summary and detail for searches and sessions, including by user-defined date range.

For a Levelled Reading resource, statistics should include, but are not limited to:

- Progress reports for both self initiated and teacher assigned activities. Examples include, numbers of items accessed, completed, retried, scores on assessments;
- Progress towards incentives provided within the program, e.g., awards, certificates; and
- Statistics should be available on a single, easy-to-view dashboard at: (1) the Board level (full board results), (2) teacher level for his/her class(es), and at (3) student level.

2.3.6 System Help Functionality

The System should provide at a minimum:

- Help function and support in both English and French as appropriate for the System;
- Help page/section within the System, context-sensitive help and searchable help option function; and
- Help functions and support in a variety of formats, including accessible formats.

2.3.7 System Security

The System shall adhere to the Customers' security policies and procedures. The commonly used Security frameworks are:

- NIST (National Institute of Standards Technology) Cybersecurity Framework;
- CIS (Center for Information Security) Controls v7;
- ISO (International Standards Organization) 27001/27002 Cybersecurity Framework;
- SOC (Systems and Organization Controls) 2/3 Auditing Framework; and
- COBIT (Control Objectives for Information and Related Technologies) Cybersecurity Framework.

2.3.8 Access Rights

The System should give the main user the rights to set up access profiles to be assigned to each user and the ability to edit the access rights for individual users.

The System should have the capability of setting up different roles and have different rights assigned to each role.

The System should provide for both on-site and off-site access.

2.3.9 Data Export

The System should have the capabilities to export student data relevant to a portfolio in a common format (e.g., PDF, CSV) to a third-party tool.

2.3.10 Data Validation

The System should distinguish between authorized users in a student role and other roles (e.g., teacher or administrator). The System shall provide data validation rules for commonly used fields as mutually agreed to by the Customer and the Supplier.

2.3.11 Data Residency

The Suppliers' host servers and backup servers shall be located on North American soil in a secure data centre. The Supplier shall follow the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* ("PIPEDA") requirements and adhere to encryption standards mentioned in section 2.5.5. of this Act.

2.3.12 Integration

The System should integrate with the following but not limited to:

- Single Sign On (SSO);
- Learning Technologies;
- Student Information System (SIS);
- Direct URLs;
- Mobile accessibility (app);
- Google G-suite products;
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) tracking;
- Ontario's Virtual Learning Environment (the VLE, which is currently Brightspace by D2L Corporation); and
- LTI (Learning System Interoperability) link.

2.3.13 Configuration and Customization

The System should be configurable and customizable as per the requirements of the Customer.

2.3.14 Future Features

The Supplier should work towards all features that are not currently part of the System and include them in their product roadmap.

The Supplier shall also propose new and upcoming functionality over the Term of the Agreement.

The Supplier shall invest in emerging technologies and make a commitment to ongoing modernization and development efficiencies, as identified by users.

In the event that new technologies become available, which may enhance the System or which may otherwise be provided as an additional service or features under the terms of the Agreement, the Supplier may provide such business transaction opportunities to the Customer. The Customer reserves the right to incorporate such changes, if deemed to be in the best interest of the Customer, at an additional cost as mutually agreed upon between the Customer and the Supplier.

2.4 Implementation

The Supplier shall provide implementation support services, at no additional cost, if required including, but not limited to:

- (a) Project Management based on project management lifecycle;
- (b) Project execution services;
- (c) Change Management and Communication plan;
- (d) Training;
- (e) Pilot Project; and,
- (f) Ongoing Services.

2.5 Training

The Supplier shall provide training services to the Customer in English and French for the Customer's defined users, at no additional cost. Such training services may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Providing multiple options for training at different levels and in a variety of formats, including accessible formats such as:
 - I. Computer-based training;
 - II. Instructor-led;
 - III. Online training videos;

- IV. Train the Trainer; and
 - V. Remote and onsite training.
- (b) Training content that considers equity, inclusive education, student special education needs and the needs of the educators who work with special education students;
 - (c) Providing updated and detailed training manuals annually or as processes and system functionalities change;
 - (d) Providing answers online to Frequently Answered Questions (“FAQs”) which are to be updated as per the mutually agreed upon frequency; and,
 - (e) Post-implementation training support, as mutually agreed upon between the Customer and the Supplier.

2.6 Ongoing Support and Services

The Supplier should perform all required tasks at no additional costs to ensure successful delivery and on-going support of the System. Ongoing Services include but are not limited to:

(a) Technical Support Service

The Supplier shall provide remote technical support Services at no additional cost to Customers with the following at a minimum:

- I. Standard business hours (i.e., 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday) technical support; and
- II. Optional twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) technical support.

The Supplier should also provide Customers with online chat-room/technical forum and knowledge base access.

- (b) The Customer shall be made aware of any scheduled downtime needed to the platform no less than seven (7) Business Days before the outage. The Supplier shall provide support throughout the Term of the Agreement, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Maintaining at a minimum ninety-nine percent point nine (99.9%) uptime including routine maintenance;
 - ii. Notifying Customers of potential widespread issues, bugs as they become known;
 - iii. Notifying Customers of any new updates and/or patches, sixty (60) days before release, unless otherwise agreed, in writing, by the Customer;
 - iv. Releasing patches in such a manner that they do not interfere with each Customer’s operations;
 - v. Providing a copy of the Supplier’s maintenance policies to the Customer;
 - vi. Adhering to Services Level Agreements (“SLA”) as agreed upon at the time of executing the Customer Supplier Agreement (“CSA”); and
 - vii. Provisioning for alert and update messaging (e.g. when the system is not working).
- (c) Training and Logistics
 - i. Development and management of ongoing training strategy.
- (d) Continuous Improvement
 - i. Designing and implementing processes to monitor service delivery and developing and implementing opportunities for improvement.
- (e) Other Services:

- i. Any other services that the Supplier and the Customer agree are necessary to support the System.

2.6.1 Performance and Availability

The System shall meet or exceed, but not be limited to the following requirements;

- (a) Maintain at a minimum ninety-nine-point nine percent (99.9%) uptime including routine maintenance; and
- (b) Manage concurrent users with a rapid response time.

2.6.2 Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity

The Supplier shall possess and provide to OEMC and/or Customers upon request, information about disaster recovery and business continuity programs including processes, policies, and procedures related to safety standards, preparing for recovery or continuation of System availability critical to Customers.

2.6.3 Release Management

The supplier should:

- i. Develop and manage release strategy; including ensuring Software Vulnerability Testing is completed prior to the deployment of each major and/or minor release;
- ii. Provide management for each major, minor and patch release; and,
- iii. Seek Customer signoff before updating the production environment.

2.7 Support to Customers

The Supplier shall provide effective support to Customers including, but not limited to:

- (a) Providing a responsive account executive (with applicable back-up) assigned to the Customer to support Customer's needs by providing day-to-day and ongoing administrative support, and operational support;
- (b) Managing issue resolution in a timely manner;
- (c) Complying with agreed upon escalation processes to resolve outstanding issues;
- (a) Responding to Customer's inquiries (e.g. to day-to-day activities) within one (1) Business Day;
- (b) Ensuring minimal disruption to the Customer;
- (c) Providing easy access to the Supplier (e.g. online, toll free telephone number, email, voicemail, chat or fax);
- (d) Providing training/demonstrations, knowledge transfer, and no-cost educational events (e.g. webinars), if available;
- (e) Establishing an ongoing communications program with the Customer (e.g. new initiatives, innovation, sustainability);
- (f) Adhering to the Customer's confidentiality and privacy policies (e.g. related to student's private information);
- (g) Providing Customer reporting;
- (h) Attending meetings with Customers, as requested;
- (i) Additional project specific requirements; and
- (j) Based on the System and the end-user language, support should be provided in French or/and in English.

2.8 Transition In and Transition Out (Termination/Program Close Out)

The Proponent shall provide a close out plan prior to the termination and/or expiry of the Term of Agreement or extension Terms. The close out plan shall include exit tasks and activities to ensure a seamless transition. Termination assistance shall include at a minimum:

- Transfer of Customer data in a mutually agreed data format, and consisting of the transfer of any existing service history and Customer specific technical data and the Proponent shall permanently delete all such data upon the successful transfer of such data to each individual Customer;
- Transfer of any existing Customer specific policies and procedures documentation including any Customer specific manuals, history of changes, operational procedures and standards;
- The provision of the System, including online System, until a new provider has implemented the applicable System; and
- Additional termination assistance that may be mutually agreed upon at the time of termination.

2.9 Licences, Right to Use and Approvals

The Supplier shall obtain all licences, right to use and approvals required in connection with the supply of the System and provide them at Customer and OECM request. The costs of obtaining such licences, right to use and approvals shall be the responsibility of, and shall be paid for by, the Supplier.

Where a Supplier is required by Applicable Law to hold or obtain any such licence, right to use and approval to carry on an activity contemplated in its Proposal or in the Master Agreement, neither acceptance of the Proposal nor execution of the Master Agreement by OECM shall be considered an approval by OECM for the Supplier to carry on such activity without the requisite licence, right to use or approval.

2.10 Invoicing

Flexibility in invoicing processes is required. The Customer and Supplier can mutually agree to invoicing details when executing a Customer-Supplier Agreement ("CSA").

The Supplier shall, for Customers using Jaggaer, support cXML and/or portal invoicing functionality.

The invoices, in either paper or electronic format, as detailed in the Customer's CSA shall be itemized and contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- (a) Customer name and location;
- (b) Customer purchase order number (if applicable) and order date;
- (c) Description of System provided, quantities and Rates; and,
- (d) HST and total cost.

2.10.1 Payment Terms and Methods

The Customer's common payment terms are net thirty (30) days.

The Supplier shall accept payment from Customers by cheque, Purchasing Card, Visa Payables Automation (via ghost card) or Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") at no additional cost to the Customer.

Different payment terms may be agreed to when executing a CSA (e.g. 2%/10 early payment discount for Customers).

Note – Customer's payment terms will not be in effect until the Supplier provides an accurate invoice.

2.10.2 Electronic Fund Transfer

The Supplier shall provide the Customer with the necessary banking information to enable EFT, at no additional cost to the Customer, for any related invoice payments including, but not limited to:

- (a) A void cheque;

- (b) Financial institution's name;
- (c) Financial institution's transit number;
- (d) Financial institution's account number; and,
- (e) Email address for notification purposes.

2.10.3 Incentive to Customers

Where feasible, the Supplier should offer incentives to Customers to promote additional cost savings resulting from better operational efficiencies that may including, but not limited to:

- (a) Increased online ordering including electronic commerce;
- (b) Use of Purchasing Card ("P-Card") for immediate payment;
- (c) Early payment discount for Customers;
- (d) Higher volumes; and,
- (e) Overall growth.

In consultation with OECM, the Customer may negotiate specific details related to one (1) or more financial incentive.

The financial incentives the Supplier and Customer agree to shall be incorporated into the CSA and reviewed and adjusted (e.g. annually) as required and reported to OECM as part of the sales reporting.

The financial incentive to Customers can be reviewed and adjusted annually as required.

2.11 Order Management

The Supplier shall support a variety of ordering methods, including but not limited to:

- (a) Electronic Commerce;
- (b) Electronic Data Interchange ("EDI");
- (c) Electronic mail ("Email");
- (d) Facsimile ("Fax");
- (e) Telephone; and,
- (f) Online ordering with a secure and dedicated login.

2.11.1 Electronic Commerce

Clients currently use a variety of ERP, e-Procurement or financial systems (e.g. PeopleSoft). When Clients implement various methods for electronic ordering, such as integrated system and EDI, the Supplier will provide reasonable technology and implementation support to Clients at no extra cost.

2.12 Environmental and Sustainability Considerations

OECM and its Customers are committed to reducing their carbon footprint. The Supplier should keep Customers informed about any environmentally friendly processes, Products, new technologies and/or green initiatives. The Supplier should, in consultation with OECM, make any environmentally friendly processes, Products, new technologies and/or green initiatives, related to the RFP Deliverables, available to Customers as required.

2.13 Social Procurement

OECM and its Customers are committed to social procurement. The Supplier should keep OECM and Customers informed about social procurement processes.

2.14 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act

OECM and its Clients are committed to the highest possible standards for accessibility. The Supplier must be capable to recommend and deliver, as appropriate for the Deliverables, accessible and inclusive Services consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code (“OHRC”), the *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (“ODA”) and *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (“AODA”) and its regulations in order to achieve accessibility for Ontarians with disabilities.

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 429-07 made under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (Accessibility Standards for Customer Service), Clients have established policies, practices and procedures governing the provision of its services to persons with disabilities.

The AODA may be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/05a11>

[End of Part 2]

PART 3 – EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

3.1 Stages of Proposal Evaluation

The Proponent may choose to submit a Proposal for either Category A: Literacy Digital Tools or Category B: Research Digital Tools, or both. OECM will evaluate each Proposal independently.

OECM will conduct the evaluation of Proposals in the following stages per Category:

Stage	Type of Evaluation	Refer to RFP Section	Scoring Methodology and Maximum Points per Category (if applicable)	Minimum Threshold Requirement (if any)
Stage I	Qualification Response	3.2	Pass/Fail	Pass
Stage II	Technical Response	3.3	1000	500
Stage III	Commercial Response	3.4	1000	Not Applicable
Stage IV	Cumulative Score	3.5	2000	Not Applicable
Stage V	Tie Break Process	3.6	No Point Allocation	Not Applicable
Stage VI	Negotiations	3.7	No Point Allocation	Not Applicable
Stage VII	Master Agreement Finalization	3.8	No Point Allocation	Not Applicable

3.2 Stage I – Review of Qualification Responses (Pass/Fail)

Stage I will consist of a review to determine which Proposals comply with all qualification requirements.

The Proponent **must** complete the following forms in Ontario’s Tenders Portal (“OTP”) to qualify and proceed to the next stage of evaluation.

Title	OTP Envelope
Form of Offer	Qualification
Compliance with Form of Master Agreement	Qualification
Commercial Response	Commercial

If the Proponent fails to insert information contained in the above forms, OECM may provide an opportunity to rectify such deficiency within a period of two (2) Business Days from notification thereof. Only Proponents satisfying the identified deficiencies within allotted time will proceed to Stage II.

3.3 Stage II – Technical Response per Category

Stage II will consist of an evaluation and scoring of the Technical Response per Category of each Eligible Proposal.

The Technical Response includes a series of questions the Proponent is required to respond to in order to demonstrate the Proponent’s ability to fulfill the RFP Deliverables. Only information contained within the Technical Response will be evaluated in Stage II.

Technical Response questions applicable to a specific Category should only be answered for the specific Categories being proposed.

Only Proposals that meet or exceed the minimum thresholds will receive a pass in this stage and proceed to Stage III of the evaluation process.

Point allocations for the Technical Response sections per Category are as follows:

Technical Response Sections	Available Points per Category	Minimum Threshold, if any
- Experience and Qualification	200	500
- Functionality	400	
- Integration	100	
- Training	100	
- Privacy and Security	200	
TOTAL POINTS:	1000	500

Detailed sub-point allocations are set out in the Technical Response on OTP.

In the case that contradictory information or information that contains conditional statements is provided, OECM will, in its sole and absolute discretion, determine whether the response complies with the requirements, and may seek clarification from the Proponent.

A Proposal that does not respond to a particular question (e.g. is left blank) or contains a response of N/A or not applicable will receive a zero (0) score.

Stage II resulting scores per Proposal and Category will be used when determining the cumulative score as described below in Section 3.5.

3.4 Stage III – Commercial Response per Category

The Proponent **must** complete and upload Appendix C – Commercial Response, for the specific Category/Categories being proposed, into the OTP Commercial Envelope for this stage of evaluation.

Upon the completion of Stage II of the evaluation, the Commercial Response will be opened for all Eligible Proposals.

A separate evaluation and scoring of the Commercial Response will be conducted for each Category.

Point allocations for the Commercial Response sections per Category are as follows:

Commercial Response Sections	Available Points per Category
- System Rates	800
- Training	200
TOTAL POINTS:	1000

Detailed sub-point allocations per Category are set out in the Appendix C – Commercial Response on OTP.

Maximum Rate Evaluation per Category

Rates, for all Categories, will be evaluated using a relative formula. See example below:

EXAMPLE OF COMMERCIAL RESPONSE EVALUATION FOR CATEGORY A – LITERACY DIGITAL TOOLS 2. TRAINING (RFP SECTION 2.5)		
Proposed Rates	Calculation	Resulting Points
If Proponent 1 proposes the lowest Rate of \$100.00 for In-Person Training, it would receive 100% of the points allocated.	$\$100 \div \100×100 Points	100

EXAMPLE OF COMMERCIAL RESPONSE EVALUATION FOR CATEGORY A – LITERACY DIGITAL TOOLS 2. TRAINING (RFP SECTION 2.5)		
Proposed Rates	Calculation	Resulting Points
If Proponent 2 proposes the second lowest Rate of \$200.00 for In-Person Training, it would receive 50% of the points allocated.	$\$100 \div \200×100 Points	50
If Proponent 3 proposes the third lowest Rate of \$400.00 for In-Person Training, it would receive 25% of the points allocated.	$\$100 \div \400×100 Points	25

Where \$0.00 is entered in any Rate cell, it is deemed to mean that the particular System **will be provided to Customers at no additional cost**. Therefore, when evaluating and scoring the Rates, a Proposal specifying \$0.00 in a Rate cell in the Commercial Response shall receive the maximum point allocation for that particular System. The remaining Proposals will be evaluated using a relative formula based on the remaining percentage of available points regardless of the Proposals of \$0.00 Rate as per below example.

EXAMPLE – WHERE FIVE (5) PROPOSALS WERE RECEIVED WITH \$0.00 RATE PROPOSED		
Number of Proposals with a proposed Rate of \$0.00 for a particular System	The number of remaining Proposals	The percentage (%) of the sub-point allocation for the remaining Proposals will be:
1	4	80%
2	3	60%
3	2	40%
4	1	20%

Where N/A or not applicable is entered in a Commercial Response cell or a Commercial Response cell is left blank for the System, it is deemed to mean that the particular System will **not be provided** to Customers. Therefore, when evaluating and scoring the Rates, a Proposal specifying N/A or not applicable, or left blank in Appendix C – Commercial Response will receive a zero (0) point allocation for that particular pricing section.

Minimum Percentage Discount Off Rates Evaluation per Category

Percentage discount Rates will be evaluated using a relative formula. See example below:

EXAMPLE OF COMMERCIAL RESPONSE EVALUATION FOR CATEGORY A – LITERACY DIGITAL TOOLS 1. SYSTEM RATES (RFP SECTION 2.1-2.4; 2.6-2.8)		
Proposed Minimum Percentage Discount from Published Price	Calculation	Resulting Points
If Proponent 1 proposes the highest percentage discount of 75%, that Proponent will receive 100% of the points allocated.	$75\% \div 75\% \times 800$ Points	800
If Proponent 2 proposes the second highest percentage discount of 60%, that Proponent will receive 80% of the points allocated.	$60\% \div 75\% \times 800$ Points	640
If Proponent 3 proposes the third highest percentage discount of 48%, that Proponent will receive 64% of the points allocated.	$48\% \div 75\% \times 800$ Points	512

Where a percentage discount 100% is entered in any Rate cell, it is deemed to mean that the particular System **will be provided to Customers at no additional cost**. Therefore, when evaluating and scoring the Rates, a Proposal specifying percentage discount 100% in a Rate cell in the Commercial Response shall receive the maximum point allocation for that particular System. The remaining Proposals will be evaluated using a relative formula based on the remaining percentage of available points regardless of the Proposals of 100% Rate as per below example.

EXAMPLE – WHERE FIVE (5) PROPOSALS WERE RECEIVED WITH 100% DISCOUNT PROPOSED		
Number of Proposals with a proposed Rate of 100% for a particular System	The number of remaining Proposals	The percentage (%) of the sub-point allocation for the remaining Proposals will be:
1	4	80%
2	3	60%
3	2	40%
4	1	20%

Where N/A or not applicable is entered in a Commercial Response cell or a Commercial Response cell is left blank for the System, it is deemed to mean that the particular System will **not be provided** to Customers. Therefore, when evaluating and scoring the Rates, a Proposal specifying N/A or not applicable, or left blank in Appendix C – Commercial Response will receive a zero (0) point allocation for that particular System.

Stage III resulting scores per Proposal by Category will be used when determining the cumulative score as described below in Section 3.5.

3.5 Stage IV – Cumulative Score

At this stage, the scores from Stages II and III will be combined for each Eligible Proposal per Category.

Subject to the express and implied rights of OECM; the Proponents with the highest scoring Proposals per Category or all Proponents per Category may become the Preferred Proponents, and be invited to negotiations, as further described below.

Reference checks will be performed to confirm or clarify information provided within the Proposal. The reference checks themselves will not be scored, however, OECM may adjust Technical Response scores related to the information obtained during the reference check.

3.6 Stage V – Tie Break Process

At this stage, where two (2) or more of the highest scoring Eligible Proposals achieve a tie score on completion of the Stage IV for a particular Category, OECM may invite all Proponents to negotiations or break the tie by selecting the Proposal with the highest score in Stage II – Technical Response for that Category.

3.7 Stage VI – Negotiations

Concurrent negotiations, with the Preferred Proponents, will be based on the RFP requirements, and the Proposals, understanding that OECM is seeking the best overall solution and value for money for Customers.

The negotiations may include:

- (a) System;
- (b) Master Agreement management (e.g. performance, KPIs, penalties, reporting);
- (c) Master Agreement terms and conditions;
- (d) Additional references, if required;
- (e) Rates; and,
- (f) Best and Final Offer.

OECM may also request supplementary information from a Preferred Proponent to verify, clarify or supplement the information provided in its Proposal or confirm the conclusions reached in the evaluation and may include requests by OECM for improved Rates.

OECM intends to complete negotiations within fifteen (15) calendar days after notification. If, for any reason, OECM and a Preferred Proponent fail to reach an agreement within the aforementioned timeframe, OECM

may at its sole and absolute discretion (a) request the Preferred Proponent to submit its Best and Final Offer; (b) terminate negotiations with that particular Preferred Proponent; (c) extend the negotiation timeline; or (d) publish one (1) or some of the Suppliers, who have executed Master Agreements, within our promotional marketing launch. Other Master Agreements, if successfully negotiated with other Preferred Proponents would be added to OECEM's website at a later date.

Upon successful negotiations, the Preferred Proponent will be invited to execute a Master Agreement.

3.8 Stage VII – Master Agreement Finalization

The Preferred Proponent will be given five (5) Business Days to execute the Master Agreement, unless otherwise specified by OECEM. Once the Master Agreement has been executed, Customers may execute a CSA.

OECEM shall at all times be entitled to exercise its rights under Section 5.6.

[End of Part 3]

PART 4 – MASTER AGREEMENT STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Master Agreement Structure

OECM may, through this RFP process, enter into Master Agreements with one (1) or more Suppliers per Category for the provision of the System.

The Term is intended to be for three (3) years, with an option in favour of OECM to extend the Term on the same terms and conditions for up to three (3) additional years. Performance as set out in Appendix G – Performance Management Scorecard and, if applicable, Supplier Recognition Program evaluation results will be considered when contemplating a Master Agreement extension.

Customers participating in the Master Agreements will execute a CSA with a Supplier as attached in Appendix B – Form of Master Agreement. The Supplier shall provide a copy of every CSA to OECM within thirty (30) days of execution.

The Master Agreement must be fully executed before the provision of any Deliverables commences.

4.1.1 No Contract until Execution of Written Master Agreement

This RFP process is intended to identify Proponents for the purpose of negotiation of potential Master Agreements. The negotiation process is further described in Part 3 – Evaluation of Proposals, and in Section 3.7 of this RFP.

No legal relationship or obligation regarding the procurement of any System shall be created between the Proponent and OECM by this RFP process until the successful completion of negotiation and execution of a written Master Agreement for the provision of the System has occurred.

4.1.2 Customer's Usage of Master Agreements

The establishment and use of the Master Agreement consists of a two (2) part process.

Part One, which is managed by OECM, is the creation of the Master Agreement through the issuance of this RFP, the evaluation of Proposals submitted in response to it and the negotiation and execution of the Master Agreement.

Part Two, the Optional Second Stage Selection Process ("Second Stage") is managed by the Customer or by OECM on the Customer's behalf and is focused on the Customer's specific needs. Depending on the Customer's internal policies, and potential dollar value of the System a Customer may:

- (a) Select a Supplier and sign a CSA; or,
- (b) **Seek demonstration for the proposed System; and/or**
- (c) Seek Rates and other relevant System information specific to a Customer's organization (e.g. by issuing a non-binding request via a Second Stage tool (e.g. Request for Services ("RFS")), or Customer's process (e.g. directly or via an online e-tendering platform)) from the Supplier for their specific System requirements. If selected by the Customer, the Supplier shall provide the System in accordance with the specifications stated in the Master Agreement and in the Customer's CSA.

When a Second Stage request is issued, which does not constitute a contract A, contract B situation, it will identify the required System or it may request the Supplier to propose appropriate System to fulfill the Customer's requirements and any other applicable information. The Customer may negotiate their unique requirements with the Supplier and mutually agree to additional terms and conditions (e.g. reporting, Rates, payment terms) ensuring the additional terms and conditions are not in any way inconsistent with the Master Agreement.

The Supplier must respond to a Second Stage Selection Process request and, at minimum, the response should set out the following:

- (a) Proposed System;
- (b) Timelines for Implementation and Ongoing Services; and,
- (c) Final, net Rates. The Rates should be valid for a period of not less than ninety (90) days. Limited time offer Rates and/or promotional Rates must be specified by the Supplier, if applicable to the specific Second Stage request.

4.1.3 No Guarantee of Volume of Work or Exclusivity of Master Agreement

Nothing in this RFP is intended to relieve the Proponent from forming its own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in this RFP. Volumes are an estimate only and may not be relied on by the Proponent.

OECM makes no guarantee of the value or volume of work to be assigned to the Supplier.

The Master Agreement executed with the Supplier may not be an exclusive Master Agreement for the provision of the Deliverables. Customers may contract with others for the same or similar Deliverables to those described in this RFP.

4.2 Rates

Two (2) type of Rates shall be applicable to the System in the Master Agreements resulting from this RFP that shall be firm Rates per Category until the first anniversary of the Master Agreement:

- (a) Minimum percentage discount off a published price list for the System applicable to all Customers shall be firm until the first year anniversary of the Master Agreement;
- (b) Maximum Rates for Training are firm Rates for the first year of the Master Agreement.

All Rates, shall be:

- (a) in Canadian funds and shall include all applicable costs, including, but not limited to overhead, materials, fuel, fuel surcharge, duties, tariffs, travel, delivery, office support, profit, permits, licences, labour, insurance, and Workplace Safety Insurance Board costs; and,
- (b) Exclusive of the HST, or other similar taxes.

The Supplier may, however, lower its Rates or increase the minimum percentage discount off published list price for the System when the Customer and Supplier mutually agree without affecting the Rates in the Master Agreement.

In extenuating circumstances, OECM may consider a Rate adjustment substantially effecting the provision of Services resulting from new or changed municipal, provincial, or federal regulations, by-laws and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates as published by the Bank of Canada, tariffs, or ordinances. Any such request from the Supplier must be accompanied and supported by documentation deemed appropriate by OECM. OECM may use a third-party index (e.g. Consumer Price Index ("CPI")) in its Rates review. The Supplier must submit documentation (i.e. Rate impact analysis) demonstrating how the request affects the delivery of System in this Master Agreement. OECM will not consider any fixed costs or overhead adjustments in its review of the Supplier's documentation.

4.2.1 Travel Expenses

The Supplier must obtain prior approval from the Customer for costs incurred as a result of accommodation, travel or meals associated with a particular Assignment. These costs must be charged in accordance with the Customer's travel policy, as may be amended from time to time. Suppliers may obtain applicable rates from the Customer. All such pre-approved costs, where applicable, must be itemized separately on invoices.

Customers shall not be responsible for any meal, hospitality, or incidental expenses incurred by the Supplier, whether incurred while travelling or otherwise including,

- (a) Gratuities;

- (b) Laundry or dry cleaning;
- (c) Valet services;
- (d) Dependent care;
- (e) Home management; and,
- (f) Personal telephone calls.

4.2.2 Optional Rate Refresh

OECM's goal is to keep Rates as low as possible for Customers. However, the Supplier may request a Rate refresh on the first anniversary date of the Master Agreement and every anniversary thereafter.

The Supplier shall provide a written notice with supporting documentation to OECM at least (e.g. one-hundred-and-twenty (120) days prior to the Master Agreements' anniversary date annually if requesting a Rate refresh.

As part of any review OECM will consider Rate adjustments that reflect changes in operation, adjustments due to new or changed municipal, provincial, or federal regulations, by-laws, and fluctuations in foreign exchange rates as published by the Bank of Canada, tariffs, or ordinances. Any Rate refresh request from a Supplier must be accompanied by supporting documentation (e.g. detailed calculations and individual Customer impact analysis) to support any Rate adjustment. OECM may use a third-party index (e.g. Consumer Price Index) in its Rates review. OECM will not consider any fixed costs or overhead adjustments in its review.

Rate adjustments from a substantial fluctuation between the Canadian dollar ("CAD") and United States dollar ("USD") exchange rate may be considered where the average USD-to-CAD exchange rate has a variance of a plus or a minus five percent (+/- 5%) or greater to the baseline rate established by OECM.

A substantial exchange rate fluctuation between the Canadian dollar ("CAD") and the United States dollar ("USD") will be based on the following:

- (a) A baseline rate will be established by using the applicable six (6) month average USD-to-CAD exchange rate. For example, the six (6) month average for the period October 2019 – March 2020 was one-point-three-three-two-one-one-seven (1.332117);
- (b) Where the applicable six (6) month average USD-to-CAD exchange rate has a variance of a plus or a minus five percent (+/- 5%) or greater to the baseline rate, a downward or upward adjustment in Rates may be considered; and,
- (c) The applicable six (6) month average USD-to-CAD exchange rate used will be as published by the Bank of Canada.

Any such request from the Supplier must be accompanied by supporting evidence that the fluctuation in the exchange rate had a direct impact on the Rates of the System.

Volumes and Supplier performance (i.e. Supplier's Performance Management Scorecard and/or Supplier Recognition Program evaluation results) will be considered when contemplating a Rate refresh.

If a proposed Rate refresh was agreed upon between OECM and the Supplier, the new Rates would only be applicable to System ordered after the effective date of the new Rates. The effective date of the Rate change must allow Customers a minimum of thirty (30) days' prior notice from OECM. If, however, a proposed Rate increase is not accepted by OECM the Master Agreement may be terminated within one-hundred and twenty (120) days unless the Supplier agrees to withdraw its request for a Rate increase and continue the provision of the System under the existing agreed upon Rates.

If a Rate refresh is not requested, the existing Rates shall remain in effect until the next Rate refresh opportunity.

Decreases to the Rates shall be accepted at any time during the Term.

Based on above, the Master Agreement will be amended, if needed.

4.2.3 Optional Process to Add Other Systems

During the Term, if mutually agreed by OECM and the Supplier, other System feature and functionality (e.g. newly available Products, new technology and Services, etc.) may be added to the Master Agreement to align with Customer needs.

The Supplier shall provide written notice to OECM of at least one hundred and twenty (120) days if requesting a System refresh.

Additional Systems requests from the Supplier must be accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. System description, and rationale for the addition).

Volumes and Supplier's performance (i.e. as described in Appendix G – Performance Management Scorecard and/or Supplier Recognition Program evaluation results) will be considered when contemplating adding System. In the event the Supplier's performance is poor and/or unacceptable, OECM may not agree to the Supplier's System refresh request. All other System shall remain unchanged.

Rates, for newly added functionality or services will be negotiated at the time ensuring Rate alignment with similar System currently available on the Master Agreement.

Based on above, the Master Agreement will be amended, if needed.

4.2.4 Pricing Audit and Management

The Customer, OECM, or OECM on behalf of a Customer, may request Rate audits on Resources provided during the Term (including all Rates) of the Master Agreement. The Supplier shall provide supporting documents as deemed acceptable by the Customer, OECM, or OECM on behalf of a Customer within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the request. The supporting documents for pricing audits may include but are not limited to quotations and final invoices, as applicable.

4.2.5 Saving Calculation

OECM tracks, validates, and reports on savings on all of its agreements. Collaborative procurement processes enable several types of savings including direct and indirect savings (e.g. process improvement, lead time reduction, standardization, economies of scale, cost avoidance).

The Supplier shall report Customer savings (e.g. Master Agreement Rate versus Rate invoiced to Customer, total cost of ownership, cost avoidance and/or other savings).

4.2.6 OECM Geographical Zones

OECM Customers are located in five (5) geographical Zones (as set out below and detailed in Appendix D – OECM Geographical Zones) throughout the Province of Ontario. Central Zone;

- (a) East Zone;
- (b) North East Zone;
- (c) North West Zone; and,
- (d) West Zone.

Also refer to Appendix E – OECM School Board, College and University Customers in Ontario illustrating OECM's educational Customers by Zone.

4.2.7 OECM Cost Recovery Fee

As a not-for-profit/non-share capital corporation, OECM recovers its operating costs from its agreements through a Cost Recovery Fee ("CRF"). CRFs from the resulting Master Agreement from

this RFP and other OEMC agreements are structured to support OEMC's financial model, while providing savings to Customers.

The Supplier shall pay to OEMC a CRF of zero point seven five percent (0.75%) on all System invoiced by the Supplier to the Customers throughout the Term.

The CRF shall be paid to OEMC, via EFT, on a quarterly basis based on the calendar year by the tenth (10) Business Day of the applicable quarter.

CRF payment dates, for the first year of the Master Agreement, will be as follows:

CRF Payments	Payment Date
The first CRF, including any Customer purchases made between the Master Agreement execution date and September 30, 2020 shall be paid to OEMC by:	October 14, 2020
The next CRF, including any Customer purchases made between October 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 shall be paid to OEMC by:	January 14, 2021
Subsequent CRF payments shall be paid to OEMC on the tenth (10th) Business Day following each calendar quarter.	Tenth (10 th) Business Day in January, April, July, October of each year

HST is applicable to the CRF payments made to OEMC.

The CRF will be reviewed (e.g. annually) and may, at OEMC's sole discretion, be adjusted downwards.

During the Term, OEMC may implement other CRF methodologies. Should this take place, the maximum CRF noted above shall not increase.

The Supplier shall be responsible for paying interest, as specified in Article 4.09 of the Master Agreement, for late CRF payments.

Upon termination or expiry of the Master Agreement, the Supplier will submit all outstanding CRF payments within thirty (30) days of the Master Agreement termination or expiry date.

4.3 Supplier Management Support to OEMC

OEMC will oversee the Master Agreement, and the Supplier shall provide appropriate Master Agreement management support including, but not limited to:

- (a) Assigning to OEMC a Supplier Account Executive and team responsible for supporting and overseeing all aspects of the Master Agreement;
- (b) Working and acting in an ethical manner demonstrating integrity, professionalism, accountability, transparency and continuous improvement;
- (c) Promoting the Master Agreement within the Customer community;
- (d) Maintaining OEMC's and Customer's confidentiality by not disclosing Confidential Information without the prior written consent of OEMC and/or the Customer, as the case may be, as further described in Appendix B – Form of Master Agreement;
- (e) Attending business review meetings with OEMC to review such information as:
 - i. CSAs and upcoming opportunities; and,

- ii. Review and monitor performance management compliance;
- (f) Complying with Appendix H – Code of Conduct requirements as described on the OEMC website at <https://oecm.ca/oecm-advantage/our-supplier-partners/supplier-code-of-conduct>;
- (g) Managing issue resolution in a timely manner;
- (h) Complying with agreed upon escalation processes to resolve outstanding issues;
- (i) Timely submission of reports as described in Appendix F – Reporting Requirements; and,
- (j) Complying with Master Agreement close out processes (e.g. ensuring all Master Agreement obligations have been fulfilled, such as submission of final reporting and CRF payments to OEMC).

4.3.1 Master Agreement Award and Launch

Once the Master Agreement is awarded, the Supplier will meet with OEMC to discuss an effective launch strategy, and shall provide:

- (a) Supplier profile and logo;
- (b) Supplier contact information;
- (c) Customer engagement strategy;
- (d) Access to knowledge sharing materials (e.g. webinars);
- (e) Marketing materials, and,
- (f) Other relevant materials.

4.3.2 Promoting OEMC Master Agreements

To support Customers, OEMC and the Supplier will work together to encourage the use of the Master Agreement resulting from this RFP.

The Supplier will actively promote the Master Agreement to Customers by:

- (a) Conducting sales and marketing activities directly to onboard Customers;
- (b) Executing CSAs with interested Customers;
- (c) Providing excellent and responsive Customer support;
- (d) Gathering and maintaining Customer and market intelligence, including contact information;
- (e) Identifying Customer savings; and,
- (f) Identifying improvement opportunities (e.g. new System).

OEMC will promote the use of the Master Agreement with Customers by:

- (a) Using online communication tools to inform and educate;
- (b) Holding information sessions and webinars, as required;
- (c) Attending, where appropriate, Customer and Supplier events;
- (d) Facilitating CSA execution, where appropriate;
- (e) Facilitating Second Stage requests, as required;
- (f) Providing effective business relationship management;
- (g) Managing and monitoring Supplier performance;

- (h) Facilitating issue resolution; and,
- (i) Marketing Supplier promotions.

4.3.3 Supplier's Performance Management Scorecard

To ensure Master Agreement requirements are met, the Supplier's performance will be measured and tracked by OECM as described in Appendix G – Performance Management Scorecard.

4.3.4 OECM's Supplier Recognition Program

OECM's suppliers play a fundamental role in ensuring Customers' needs are met with consistent and exceptional service. As part of OECM's efforts to provide greater value to Customers and support their Supplier selection process across OECM agreements, OECM has implemented a Supplier Recognition Program ("SRP"). Through the SRP, OECM will objectively assess supplier's performance using an open, fair and transparent framework to recognize and reward top-performing Suppliers on an annual basis.

The following four (4) key areas of focus that suppliers will be measured upon include:

- (a) Supplier performance;
- (b) Master Agreement performance (see Section 4.3.3 and Appendix G (Performance Management Scorecard));
- (c) Generated savings and value; and,
- (d) Technical Response scores from the Supplier's Proposal for this RFP.

Further details will be provided to the Suppliers.

4.3.5 Reporting to OECM

The Supplier shall be responsible for providing reports as further described in Appendix F – Reporting Requirements.

Report details will be discussed and established at the Master Agreement finalization stage between OECM and the Preferred Proponent. Other reports may be added, throughout the Term, if mutually agreed upon between OECM and the Supplier, and/or the Customer and Supplier.

[End of Part 4]

PART 5 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE RFP PROCESS

5.1 General Information and Instructions

Procurement Process Non-Binding

This RFP process is non-binding, and it does not intend to create, and shall not create, a formal legally-binding procurement process, and shall not give rise to the legal rights or duties applied to a formal legally-binding procurement process. This procurement process shall instead be governed by the law applicable to direct commercial negotiations. For greater certainty and without limitation:

- (a) This RFP shall not give rise to any contract A – based tendering law duties or any other legal obligations arising out of any process contract or collateral contract; and,
- (b) Neither the Proponent nor OECM shall have the right to make any breach of contract, tort or other claims against the other with respect to the award of a Master Agreement, failure to award a Master Agreement or failure to honour a response to this RFP.

Non-Binding Rates

While the Proposal Rates will be non-binding prior to the execution of a written Master Agreement, such information will be assessed during the evaluation and ranking of the Proposals, as further described in Part 3 – Evaluation of Proposals. Any inaccurate, misleading, or incomplete information, including withdrawn or altered Rates, could adversely impact any such evaluation, ranking, or Master Agreement award.

5.1.1 RFP Timetable

The following is a summary of the key dates for this RFP process:

RFP Timetable	
Event	Time/Date
OECM's Issue Date of RFP:	June 12, 2020
Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session:	2:00 pm on June 18, 2020
Proponent's Deadline to Submit Questions:	5:00 pm on June 24, 2020
OECM's Deadline for Issuing Answers:	June 29, 2020
Proponent's Deadline to Submit Questions Related to Addenda & Question and Answer Documents:	5:00 pm on July 2, 2020
OECM's Deadline for Issuing Final Documents:	July 6, 2020
Closing Date:	2:00 pm on July 13, 2020
Anticipated Master Agreement Start Date:	August 2020

Note – all times specified in this RFP timetable are local times in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

OECM may amend any timeline, including the Closing Date, without liability, cost, or penalty, and within its sole discretion.

In the event of any change in the Closing Date, the Proponent may thereafter be subject to the extended timeline.

5.1.2 Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session

The Proponent should participate in the Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session, which will take place at the time set out in Section 5.1.1.

Prior to the Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session, OECM will send a **Message** via OTP with the teleconference and webinar information to the Proponents who expressed interest on OTP.

The Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session is an opportunity for the Proponent to enhance its understanding of the RFP process and to learn how to use OTP to submit its Proposal.

Any changes to the Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session meeting date will be issued in an addendum on OTP.

Information provided during this session will be posted on OTP.

In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the Proponent's Information and OTP Demonstration Session and the RFP, the RFP shall prevail.

The Proponent can contact OTP technical support directly for further assistance, using the contact details set out in Section 5.3.1.

5.1.3 Proponent to Follow Instructions

The Proponent should structure its Proposal in accordance with the instructions in this RFP. Where information is requested in this RFP, any response made in the Proposal should reference the applicable section numbers of this RFP where that request was made.

5.1.4 OECM's Information in RFP Only an Estimate

OECM makes no representation, warranty or guarantee as to the accuracy of the information contained in this RFP or issued by way of addenda. Any data contained in this RFP or provided by way of addenda are estimates only and are for the sole purpose of indicating to Proponents the general size of the work.

It is the Proponent's responsibility to avail itself of all the necessary information to prepare a Proposal in response to this RFP.

5.1.5 Proponent's Costs

The Proponent will bear all costs and expenses incurred relating to any aspect of its participation in this RFP process, including all costs and expenses relating to the Proponent's participation in:

- (a) The preparation, presentation and submission of its Proposal;
- (b) The Proponent's attendance at any meeting in relation to the RFP process, including any presentation and/or interview;
- (c) The conduct of any due diligence on its part, including any information gathering activity;
- (d) The preparation of the Proponent's own questions; and,
- (e) Any discussion and/or finalization, if any, in respect of the Form of Master Agreement.

5.2 Communication after RFP Issuance

5.2.1 Communication with OECM

All communications regarding any aspect of this RFP must be sent to OECM as a **Message** in OTP.

If the Proponent fails to comply with the requirement to direct all communications to OECM through OTP, it may be disqualified from this RFP process. Without limiting the generality of this provision, Proponents shall not communicate with or attempt to communicate with the following as it relates to this RFP:

- (a) Any employee or agent of OECM;
- (b) Any member or advisor of the Project Advisory Committee;
- (c) Any member of OECM's governing body (such as Board of Directors, or advisors);
- (d) Any employee, consultant or agent of OECM's Customers; and,
- (e) Any elected official of any level of government, including any advisor to any elected official.

5.2.2 Proponent to Review RFP

The Proponent shall promptly examine this RFP and all Appendices, including the Form of Master Agreement and:

- (a) Shall report any errors, omissions or ambiguities; and,
- (b) May direct questions or seek additional information **on** or **before** the Proponent's Deadline to Submit Questions to OECM.

All questions submitted by Proponents shall be deemed to be received once the **Message** has entered into OECM's OTP inbox.

In answering a Proponent's questions, OECM will set out the question, without identifying the Proponent that submitted the question and OECM may, in its sole discretion:

- (a) Edit the question for clarity;
- (b) Exclude questions that are either unclear or inappropriate; and,
- (c) Answer similar questions from various Proponents only once.

Where an answer results in any change to the RFP, such answer will be formally evidenced through the issue of a separate addendum for this purpose.

To ensure the Proponent clearly understand issued addenda, OECM allows Proponents to ask questions related to addenda, and question and answer documents. Refer to Section 5.1.1 for timelines.

OECM is under no obligation to provide additional information but may do so at its sole discretion.

It is the responsibility of the Proponent to seek clarification, by submitting questions to OECM through OTP, on any matter it considers to be unclear. OECM shall not be responsible for any misunderstanding on the part of the Proponent concerning this RFP or its process.

5.2.3 Proponent to Notify

In the event the Proponent has any reason to believe that an error, omission, uncertainty or ambiguity, as set out in Section 5.2.2 exists, the Proponent must notify OECM through OTP prior to submitting a Proposal.

If appropriate, OECM will then clarify the matter for the benefit of all Proponents.

The Proponent shall not:

- (a) After submission of a Proposal, claim that there was any misunderstanding or that any of the circumstances set out in Section 5.2.2 were present with respect to the RFP; and,
- (b) Claim that OECM is responsible for any of the circumstances listed in Section 5.2.2 of this RFP.

5.2.4 All New Information to Proponents by way of Addenda

This RFP may only be amended by an addendum in accordance with this section.

If OEEM, for any reason, determines that it is necessary to provide additional information relating to this RFP, such information will be communicated to all Proponents by addenda on OTP. Each addendum shall form an integral part of this RFP.

Any amendment or supplement to this RFP made in any other manner will not be binding on OEEM.

Such addenda may contain important information including significant changes to this RFP. The Proponent is responsible for obtaining all addenda issued by OEEM.

The Proponent who intends to respond to this RFP is requested not to cancel the receipt of addenda or amendments option provided by OTP, since it must obtain all information and documents that are issued on OTP.

In the event that a Proponent chooses to cancel the receipt of addenda or amendments, its Proposal may be rejected.

5.3 Proposal Submission Requirements

5.3.1 General

The Proponent shall submit its Proposal through OTP at <https://ontariotenders.app.jaggaer.com/esop/nac-host/public/web/login.html>.

The Proponent should contact OTP technical support if it experiences technical difficulties or to seek support about the use of OTP via:

- (a) Email at etenderhelp_CA@jaggaer.com;
- (b) By phone at 866-722-7390; or,
- (c) Accessing website information at https://ontariotenders.app.jaggaer.com/esop/nac-host/public/attach/eTendering_responding_to_tender_guide.pdf.

To be considered in the RFP process, a Proposal must be submitted and received **before** the Closing Date as set out in Section 5.1.1 and on OTP.

The Proponent is strongly encouraged to become familiar with the use of OTP well in advance of the Closing Date.

The Proponent will not be able to submit a Proposal after the Closing Date, as OTP will close the access to the RFP on the Closing Date.

A Proposal sent by, email, facsimile, mail and/or any other means other than stated in this RFP shall **not** be considered. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any applicable statute relating to electronic documents transactions, including the *Electronic Commerce Act, 2000, S.O. 2000, c. 17*, any notice, submission, statement, or other instrument provided in respect of the RFP may not be validly delivered by way of electronic communication, unless otherwise provided for in this RFP.

5.3.2 Proposal in English

All Proposal submissions are to be in English only. Any Proposal received by OEEM that is not entirely in the English language may be disqualified.

5.3.3 Proposal Submission Requirements

The Proponent is solely responsible for submitting its Proposal on OTP prior to the Closing Date.

The Proposal should be submitted in accordance with the instructions set out on OTP and in this RFP as set out below.

Appendix/Form Title	OTP Envelope	Complete Form within OTP	Complete Appendix and Upload to OTP
Form of Offer	Qualification	√	
Compliance with Form of Master Agreement	Qualification	√	
Technical Response	Technical	√	
Appendix C – Commercial Response	Commercial		√

5.3.4 Other Proposal Considerations

In preparing its Proposal, the Proponent should adhere to the following:

- (a) Information contained in any embedded link will not be considered part of a Proposal, and will not be evaluated or scored;
- (b) Completely address, on a point-by-point basis, each Technical Response question in Technical Response. Technical Responses left blank and/or unanswered will receive a score of zero (0). Refer to Section 3.3;
- (c) Information attached as part of the Commercial Envelope in OTP will not be considered as part of the evaluation of Stage II - Technical Response. Refer to Section 3.3; and,
- (d) The Proposal should be complete in all respects. Proposal evaluation and scoring applies only to the information contained in the Proposal, or accepted clarifications as set out in Section 5.3.13 Clarification of Proposals.

5.3.5 Proposal Receipt by OECM

Every Proposal received will be date/time stamped by OTP.

A Proponent should allow sufficient time in the preparation of its Proposal to ensure its Proposal is received **on** or **before** the Closing Date.

5.3.6 Withdrawal of Proposal

A Proponent may withdraw its Proposal by deleting its submission on OTP **before** the Closing Date or at any time throughout the RFP process until the execution of a Master Agreement. To withdraw a Proposal after the Closing Date, the Proponent should send a **Message** to OECM through OTP.

5.3.7 Amendment of Proposal on OTP

A Proponent may amend its Proposal after submission through OTP, but only if the Proposal is amended and resubmitted **before** the Closing Date.

5.3.8 Completeness of Proposal

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent confirms that all components required to use and/or manage the System have been identified in its Proposal or will be provided to OECM or its Customers at no additional cost. Any requirement that may be identified by the Proponent after the Closing Date or subsequent to signing the Master Agreement shall be provided at the Proponent's expense.

5.3.9 Proposals Retained by OECM

All Proposals submitted by the Closing Date shall become the property of OECM and will not be returned to the Proponent.

5.3.10 Acceptance of RFP

By submitting a Proposal, a Proponent agrees to accept the terms and conditions contained in this RFP, and all representations, terms, and conditions contained in its Proposal.

5.3.11 Amendments to RFP

Subject to Section 5.1.1 and Section 5.2.4, OECM shall have the right to amend or supplement this RFP in writing prior to the Closing Date. No other statement, whether written or oral, shall amend this RFP. The Proponent is responsible to ensure it has received all addenda.

5.3.12 Proposals will not be Opened Publicly

The Proponent is advised that there will not be a public opening of this RFP. OECM will open Proposals at a time subsequent to the Closing Date.

5.3.13 Clarification of Proposals

OECM shall have the right at any time after the Closing Date to seek clarification from any Proponent in respect of the Proposal, without contacting any other Proponent.

OECM will exercise this right in a similar manner for all Proponents.

Any clarification sought shall not be an opportunity for the Proponent to either correct errors or to change its Proposal in any substantive manner. Subject to the qualification in this provision, any written information received by OECM from a Proponent in response to a request for clarification from OECM may be considered, if accepted, to form an integral part of the Proposal.

OECM shall not be obliged to seek clarification of any aspect of any Proposal.

5.3.14 Verification of Information

OECM shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to:

- (a) Verify any Proponent's statement or claim made in its Proposal or made subsequently in a clarification, interview, site visit, oral presentation, demonstration, or discussion by whatever means OECM may deem appropriate, including contacting persons in addition to those offered as references, and to reject any Proponent statement or claim, if such statement or claim or its Proposal is patently unwarranted or is questionable, which may result in changes to the scores for the Proponent's Technical Response; and,
- (b) Access the Proponent's premises where any part of the work is to be carried out to confirm Proposal information, quality of processes, and to obtain assurances of viability, provided that, prior to providing such access, the Proponent and OECM shall have agreed on access terms including pre-notification, extent of access, security and confidentiality. OECM and the Proponent shall each bear its own costs in connection with access to each other's premises.

The Proponent shall co-operate in the verification of information and is deemed to consent to OECM verifying such information, including references.

5.3.15 Proposal Acceptance

The lowest price Proposal or any Proposal shall not necessarily be accepted. While price is an evaluation criterion, other evaluation criteria as set out in Part 3 will form a part of the evaluation process.

5.3.16 RFP Incorporated into Proposal

All provisions of this RFP are deemed to be accepted by each Proponent and incorporated into each Proposal.

5.3.17 Exclusivity of Contract

The Master Agreement, if any, with the Preferred Proponent will not be an exclusive agreement for the provision of the described Deliverables.

5.3.18 Substantial Compliance

OECM shall be required to reject Proposals, which are not substantially compliant with this RFP.

5.3.19 No Publicity or Promotion

No Proponent, including the Preferred Proponent, shall make any public announcement or distribute any literature regarding this RFP or otherwise promote itself in connection with this RFP or any arrangement entered into under this RFP without the prior written approval of OECM.

In the event that a Proponent, including the Preferred Proponent, makes a public statement either in the media or otherwise in breach of this requirement, in addition to any other legal remedy it may have in law, in equity or within the context of this RFP, OECM shall be entitled to take all reasonable steps as may be deemed necessary by OECM, including disclosing any information about a Proposal, to provide accurate information and/or to rectify any false impression which may have been created.

5.4 Negotiations, Timelines, Notification and Debriefing

5.4.1 Negotiations with Preferred Proponent

OECM reserves the right to accept or reject any Proposals in whole or in part; to waive irregularities and omissions, if doing so is in the best interests of OECM and its Customers.

The Preferred Proponent shall execute the Master Agreement in the form attached to this RFP with negotiated changes, if any, and satisfy any other applicable conditions of this RFP within twenty (20) days of invitation to enter into negotiations. This provision is solely to the benefit of OECM and may be waived by OECM at its sole discretion.

If the Preferred Proponent and OECM cannot execute the Master Agreement within the allotted twenty (20) days, OECM will, as described in Section 3.7 and 3.8, be at liberty to extend the timeline, request the Preferred Proponent to submit its Best and Final Offer, terminate discussions/negotiations with the Preferred Proponent, or publish one (1) or some of the Suppliers, who have executed Master Agreements within OECM's promotional marketing launch. Other Master Agreements, if successfully negotiated with other Preferred Proponents would be added to OECM's website at a later date.

5.4.2 Failure to Execute a Master Agreement

When the Preferred Proponent successfully reaches an agreement with OECM at the end of the negotiation process in accordance with the evaluation set out in this RFP, the Preferred Proponent will be allotted five (5) Business Days to execute the Master Agreement unless otherwise specified by OECM.

If the Preferred Proponent cannot execute the Master Agreement within the allotted timeframe, OECM may rescind the invitation to execute a Master Agreement or publish one (1) or some of the Suppliers, who have executed Master Agreements within OECM's promotional marketing launch. Other Master Agreements, if successfully negotiated with other Preferred Proponents would be added to OECM's website at a later date.

In accordance with the process rules in this Part 5 – Terms and Conditions of the RFP Process, there will be no legally binding relationship created with any Proponent prior to the execution of a written agreement.

5.4.3 Master Agreement

If a Master Agreement is subsequently negotiated and awarded to a Preferred Proponent as a result of this RFP process:

- (a) Any such Master Agreement will commence upon signature by the duly authorized representatives of OECM and the Preferred Proponent; and,
- (b) May include, but not be limited to, the general Master Agreement terms contained in Appendix B – Form of Master Agreement.

5.4.4 Notification to Other Proponents

Once the Master Agreement is executed, other Proponents will be notified directly in writing and shall be notified by public posting in the same manner that the RFP was originally posted of the outcome of the procurement process and the award of the contract.

5.4.5 Debriefing

Any Proponent may request a debriefing after receipt of a notification of award. All requests must be in writing to OECM and should be made within sixty (60) days of notification of award. The intent of the debriefing information session is to aid the Proponent in presenting a better proposal in subsequent procurement opportunities. Any debriefing provided is not for the purpose of providing an opportunity to challenge the procurement process.

5.4.6 Bid Dispute Resolution

In the event that the Proponent wishes to review the decision of OECM in respect of any material aspect of the RFP process, and subject to having attended a debriefing, the Proponent shall submit a protest in writing to OECM within ten (10) days from such a debriefing.

Any request that is not timely received will not be considered and the Proponent will be notified in writing.

A protest in writing should include the following:

- (a) A specific identification of the provision and/or procurement procedure that is alleged to have been breached;
- (b) A specific description of each act alleged to have breached the procurement process;
- (c) A precise statement of the relevant facts;
- (d) An identification of the issues to be resolved;
- (e) The Proponent's arguments and supporting documentation; and,
- (f) The Proponent's requested remedy.

For the purpose of a protest, OECM will review and address any protest in a timely and appropriate manner. OECM will engage an independent and impartial third party should the need arise.

5.5 Prohibited Communications, and Confidential Information

5.5.1 Confidential Information of OECM

All correspondence, documentation, and information of any kind provided to any Proponent in connection with or arising out of this RFP or the acceptance of any Proposal:

- (a) Remains the property of OECM and shall be removed from OECM's premises only with the prior written consent of OECM;
- (b) Must be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed except with the prior written consent of OECM;
- (c) Must not be used for any purpose other than for replying to this RFP and for the fulfillment of any related subsequent agreement; and,
- (d) Must be returned to OECM upon request.

5.5.2 Confidential Information of the Proponent

Except as provided for otherwise in this RFP, or as may be required by Applicable Laws, OECM shall treat the Proposal and any information gathered in any related process as confidential, provided that such obligation shall not include any information that is or becomes generally available to the public other than as a result of disclosure by OECM.

During any part of this RFP process, OECM or any of its representatives or agents shall be under no obligation to execute a confidentiality agreement.

In the event that a Proponent refuses to participate in any required stage of the RFP because OECM has refused to execute any such confidentiality agreement, the Proponent shall receive no points for that particular stage of the evaluation process.

5.5.3 Proponent's Submission

All correspondence, documentation, and information provided in response to or because of this RFP may be reproduced for the purposes of evaluating the Proposal.

If a portion of a Proposal is to be held confidential, such provisions must be clearly identified in the Proposal.

5.5.4 Personal Information

Personal Information shall be treated as follows:

- (a) Submission of information – The Proponent should not submit as part of its Proposal any information related to the qualifications or experience of persons who will be assigned to provide System unless specifically requested. OECM shall maintain the information for a period of seven (7) years from the time of collection. Should OECM request such information, OECM will treat this information in accordance with the provisions of this section;
- (b) Use – Any personal information as defined in the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act, S.C. 2005, c.5* that is requested from a Proponent by OECM shall only be used to select the qualified individuals to undertake the System and to confirm that the work performed is consistent with these qualifications; and,
- (c) Consent – It is the responsibility of the Proponent to obtain the consent of such individuals prior to providing the information to OECM. OECM will consider that the appropriate consents have been obtained for the disclosure to and use by OECM of the requested information for the purposes described.

5.5.5 Non-Disclosure Agreement

OECM reserves the right to require any Proponent to enter into a non-disclosure agreement satisfactory to OECM.

5.5.6 Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Ontario)*, applies to information provided by the Proponent. A Proponent should identify any information in its Proposal, or any accompanying documentation supplied in confidence for which confidentiality is to be maintained by OECM and its Customers. The confidentiality of such information will be maintained by OECM, except as otherwise required by law or by order of a court, tribunal, or the Ontario Privacy Commissioner.

By submitting a Proposal, including any Personal Information requested in this RFP, the Proponent agrees to the use of such information for the evaluation process, for any audit of this procurement process, and for contract management purposes.

5.5.7 Intellectual Property

The Proponent shall not use any intellectual property of OECM or Customers including, but not limited to, logos, registered trademarks, or trade names of OECM or Customers, at any time without the prior written approval of OECM and the respective Customer.

5.6 Reserved Rights and Governing Law of OECM

5.6.1 General

In addition to any other express rights or any other rights, which may be, implied in the circumstances, OECM reserves the right to:

- (a) Make public the names of any or all Proponents;
- (b) Request written clarification or the submission of supplementary written information from any Proponent and incorporate such clarification or supplementary written information, if accepted, into the Proposal, at OECEM's discretion, provided that any clarification or submission of supplementary written information shall not be an opportunity for the Proponent to correct errors in its Proposal or to change or enhance the Proposal in any material manner;
- (c) Waive formalities and accept Proposals that substantially comply with the requirements of this RFP;
- (d) Verify with any Proponent or with a third party any information set out in a Proposal;
- (e) Check references other than those provided by Proponents;
- (f) With supporting evidence, disqualify any Proponent on grounds such as:
 - i. Bankruptcy or insolvency;
 - ii. False declarations;
 - iii. Significant or persistent deficiencies in performance of any substantive requirement or obligation under a prior agreement or agreements;
 - iv. Final judgments in respect of serious crimes or other serious offence; or,
 - v. Professional misconduct or acts or omissions that adversely reflect on the commercial integrity of the Proponent;
- (g) Disqualify any Proponent whose Proposal contains misrepresentations or any other inaccurate or misleading information;
- (h) Disqualify any Proponent whose Proposal is determined by OECEM to be non-compliant with the requirements of this RFP;
- (i) Disqualify a Proposal based upon the past performance or on inappropriate conduct in a prior procurement process, or where the Proponent has or the principals of a Proponent have previously breached an agreement with OECEM, or has otherwise failed to perform such agreement to the reasonable satisfaction of OECEM (i.e. has not submitted required reporting and/or Cost Recovery Fees to OECEM);
- (j) Disqualify any Proponent, who, in relation to this RFP or the evaluation and selection process, has engaged directly or indirectly in any form of political or other lobbying whatsoever to influence the selection of the Supplier.
- (k) Disqualify the Proponent who has been charged or convicted of an offence in respect of an agreement with OECEM, or who has, in the opinion of OECEM, engaged in any illegal business practices, including activities such as bid-rigging, price-fixing, bribery, fraud, coercion or collusion, unethical conduct, including lobbying as described above or other forms of deceitfulness, or other inappropriate communications offering gifts to any employees, officers, agents, elected or appointed officials or other representatives of OECEM, or where the Proponent reveals a Conflict of Interest or Unfair Advantage in its Proposal or a Conflict of Interest or evidence of any Unfair Advantage is brought to the attention of OECEM;
- (l) Disqualify any Proposal of any Proponent who has breached any Applicable Laws or who has engaged in conduct prohibited by this RFP, including where there is any evidence that the Proponent or any of its employees or agents colluded with any other Proponent, its employees or agents in the preparation of the Proposal;
- (m) Make changes, including substantial changes, to this RFP provided that those changes are issued by way of addenda in the manner set out in this RFP;
- (n) Accept or reject a Proposal if only one (1) Proposal is submitted;
- (o) Reject a Subcontractor proposed by a Proponent within a Consortium;

- (p) Select any Proponent other than the Proponent whose Proposal reflects the lowest cost to OECCM;
- (q) Cancel this RFP process at any stage and issue a new RFP for the same or similar requirements, including where:
 - i. OECCM determines it would be in the best interest of OECCM not to award a Master Agreement,
 - ii. the Proposal prices exceed the bid prices received by OECCM for System acquired of a similar nature and previously done work,
 - iii. the Proposal prices exceed the costs OECCM or its Customers would incur by doing the work, or most of the work, with its own resources,
 - iv. the Proposal prices exceed the funds available for the System, or,
 - v. the funding for the acquisition of the proposed System has been revoked, modified, or has not been approved,
 and where OECCM cancels this RFP, OECCM may do so without providing reasons, and OECCM may thereafter issue a new request for proposals, request for qualifications, sole source, or do nothing;
- (r) Discuss with any Proponent different or additional terms to those contained in this RFP or in any Proposal;
- (s) Accept any Proposal in whole or in part;
- (t) If OECCM receives a Proposal from a Proponent with Rates that are abnormally lower than the Rates in other Proposals, OECCM may verify with the Proponent that the Proponent satisfies the conditions for participation and is capable of fulfilling the Master Agreement; or,
- (u) Reject any or all Proposals in its absolute discretion, including where a Proponent has launched legal proceedings against OECCM and/or its Customers or is otherwise engaged in a dispute with OECCM and/or its Customers;

and these reserved rights are in addition to any other express rights or any other rights which may be implied in the circumstances and OECCM shall not be liable for any expenses, costs, losses or any direct or indirect damages incurred or suffered by any Proponent or any third party resulting from OECCM exercising any of its express or implied rights under this RFP.

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent authorizes the collection by OECCM of the information set out under (d) and (e) in the manner contemplated in those subparagraphs.

5.6.2 Rights of OECCM – Proponent

In the event that the Preferred Proponent fails or refuses to execute the Master Agreement within allotted time from being notified, OECCM may, in its sole discretion:

- (a) Extend the period for concluding the Master Agreement, provided that if substantial progress towards executing the Master Agreement is not achieved within a reasonable period of time from such extension, OECCM may, in its sole discretion, terminate the discussions;
- (b) Exclude the Preferred Proponent from further consideration and begin discussions with the next highest scoring Proponent without becoming obligated to offer to negotiate with all Proponents; or,
- (c) Exercise any other applicable right set out in this RFP including, but not limited to, cancelling the RFP and issuing a new RFP for the same or similar System.

OECCM may also cancel this RFP in the event the Preferred Proponent fails to obtain any of the permits, licences, and approvals required pursuant to this RFP.

5.6.3 No Liability

The Proponent agrees that:

- (a) Any action or proceeding relating to this RFP process shall be brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in the Province of Ontario and for that purpose the Proponent irrevocably and unconditionally attorns and submits to the jurisdiction of that Ontario court;
- (b) It irrevocably waives any right to and shall not oppose any Ontario action or proceeding relating to this RFP process on any jurisdictional basis; and,
- (c) It shall not oppose the enforcement against it, in any other jurisdiction, of any judgement or order duly obtained from an Ontario court as contemplated by this RFP.

The Proponent further agrees that if OECM commits a material breach of OECM's obligations pursuant to this RFP, OECM's liability to the Proponent, and the aggregate amount of damages recoverable against OECM for any matter relating to or arising from that material breach, whether based upon an action or claim in contract, warranty, equity, negligence, intended conduct, or otherwise, including any action or claim arising from the acts or omissions, negligent or otherwise, of OECM, shall be no greater than the Proposal preparation costs that the Proponent seeking damages from OECM can demonstrate. In no event shall OECM be liable to the Proponent for any breach of OECM's obligations pursuant to this RFP, which does not constitute a material breach thereof. The Proponent acknowledges and agrees that the provisions of the *Broader Public Sector Accountability Act, 2010* shall apply notwithstanding anything contained herein.

5.6.4 Assignment

The Proponent shall not assign any of its rights or obligations hereunder during this RFP process without the prior written consent of OECM. Any act in derogation of the foregoing shall be null and void.

5.6.5 Entire RFP

This RFP and all Appendices form an integral part of this RFP.

5.6.6 Priority of Documents

In the event of any inconsistencies between the terms, conditions, and provisions of the main part of the RFP and the Appendices, the RFP shall prevail over the Appendices during this RFP process.

5.6.7 Disqualification for Misrepresentation

OECM may disqualify the Proponent or rescind a Master Agreement subsequently entered if the Proponent's Proposal contains misrepresentations or any other inaccurate, misleading or incomplete information.

5.6.8 References and Past Performance

The evaluation may include information provided by the Proponent's references and may also consider the Proponent's past performance with OECM and/or its Customers.

5.6.9 Cancellation

OECM may cancel or amend the RFP process without liability at any time.

5.6.10 Competition Act

Under Canadian law, a Proposal must be prepared without conspiracy, collusion, or fraud. For more information, refer to the Competition Bureau website at <http://www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/eic/site/cb-bc.nsf/eng/home>, and in particular, part VI of the *Competition Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-34.

5.6.11 Trade Agreements

The Proponent should note that procurements coming within the scope of either Chapter 5 of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement, Chapter 19 of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade

Agreement ("CETA") or within the scope of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Quebec and Ontario are subject to such agreements, although the rights and obligations of the parties shall be governed by the specific terms of this RFP.

For more information, refer to the following:

- (a) Canadian Free Trade Agreement website at <https://www.cfta-alec.ca/>;
- (b) Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Quebec and Ontario at <https://www.cfta-alec.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OQTCA-Consolidated-Jan-24-2017.pdf>; and,
- (c) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement at <http://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/campaign-campagne/ceta-aecg/index.aspx?lang=eng>.

5.6.12 Governing Law

The terms and conditions in this Part 5:

- (a) Are included for greater certainty and are intended to be interpreted broadly and separately (with no particular provision intended to limit the scope of any other provision);
- (b) Are non-exhaustive (and shall not be construed as intending to limit the pre-existing rights of the parties to engage in pre-contractual discussions in accordance with the common law governing direct commercial negotiations); and,
- (c) Are to be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the province or territory within which the Customer is located and the federal laws of Canada applicable therein.

[End of Part 5]

APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS

Definitions

Unless otherwise specified in this RFP, capitalized words and phrases have the meaning set out in Appendix B – Form of Master Agreement attached to this RFP.

“Applicable Law” means any common law requirement and all applicable and enforceable statutes, regulations, directives, policies, administrative interpretations, orders, by-laws, rules, guidelines, approvals and other legal requirements of any government and/or regulatory authority in effect from time to time;

“Best and Final Offer” or **“BAFO”** means a process during the negotiation stage in which a Preferred Proponent may be invited by OECM to submit a best and final offer on a process or section of the RFP to improve on their original Proposal submission. BAFO cannot be requested by a Proponent;

“Broader Public Sector” or **“BPS”** means:

- (a) Select classified, non-classified and hydro entities (referred to as Other Included Entities in the Management Board of Cabinet Procurement Directive);
- (b) The Legislative Assembly;
- (c) Every municipality in Ontario as defined in the *Municipal Affairs Act and the Municipal Act*;
- (d) Every regional municipality in Ontario as defined in the *Regional Municipalities Act*;
- (e) The District Municipality of Muskoka as described in the *District Municipality of Muskoka Act*;
- (f) Every local board in Ontario as defined in the *Municipal Affairs Act and the Municipal Act*;
- (g) Every university in Ontario;
- (h) Every college of applied art and technology in Ontario;
- (i) Every post-secondary institution in Ontario, the enrollments of which are used to calculate annual operating grant entitlement;
- (j) Every school board in Ontario as defined in the *Education Act*;
- (k) Every hospital listed in the Schedule to the Classification of Hospitals Regulations made under the *Public Hospitals Act*; and,
- (l) Every private hospital operated under the authority of a licence issued under the *Private Hospitals Act* including:
 - i. Community Health Centres; and,
 - ii. Community Care Access Locations;

See <https://www.ontario.ca/page/broader-public-sector-accountability>;

“Business Day” or **“Day”** means Monday to Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except when such a day is a public holiday, as defined in the *Employment Standards Act (Ontario)*, or as otherwise agreed to by the parties in writing;

“Closing Date” means the Proposal submission date and time as set out in OTP and in Section 5.1.1 and may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of this RFP;

“Commercial Envelope” means an area in OTP where the Proponent would upload its completed Commercial Response;

“Commercial Response” means the Rates the Proponent uploads to OTP within Appendix C – Commercial Response as part of the Commercial Envelope;

“Confidential Information” means confidential information of OECCM and/or any Customer (other than confidential information which is disclosed to the Preferred Proponent in the normal course of the RFP) where the confidential information is relevant to the Deliverables required by the RFP, its pricing or the RFP evaluation process, and includes all information concerning the business or affairs of the party or its directors, governors, trustees, officers or employees that is of a confidential nature, which information if in written or other tangible form, is clearly designated as confidential, or if disclosed orally, is designated as confidential in a written memorandum delivered by the disclosing party promptly following such disclosure. For the purposes of greater certainty, Confidential Information shall:

- (a) Include: (i) all new information derived at any time from any such Confidential Information whether created by OECCM, the Customer, the Proponent or any third-party; (ii) all information (including Personal Information) that OECCM or the Customer is obliged, or has the discretion, not to disclose under provincial or federal legislation; and, (iii) pricing under this RFP;
- (b) not include information that: (i) is or becomes generally available to the public without fault or breach on the part of the disclosing party of any duty of confidentiality owed by it hereunder; (ii) the disclosing party can demonstrate to have been rightfully obtained it, without any obligation of confidence, from a third-party who had the right to transfer or disclose it to the disclosing party free of any obligation of confidence; (iii) the disclosing party can demonstrate to have been rightfully known to or in the possession of it at the time of disclosure, free of any obligation of confidence when disclosed; or (iv) is independently developed by the disclosing party; but the exclusions in this subparagraph shall in no way limit the meaning of Personal Information or the obligations attaching thereto under the Contract or at law;

“Conflict of Interest” includes, but is not limited to, any situation or circumstance where:

- (a) in relation to the RFP process, the Proponent has an unfair advantage or engages in conduct, directly or indirectly, that may give it an unfair advantage, including, but not limited to (i) having or having access to information in the preparation of its Proposal that is confidential to OECCM and not available to other respondents; (ii) communicating with any person with a view to influencing preferred treatment in the RFP process; or (iii) engaging in conduct that compromises or could reasonably be seen to compromise the integrity of the open and competitive RFP process and render that process non-competitive and unfair; or,
- (b) in relation to the performance of its contractual obligations in an OECCM contract, the Proponent’s other commitments, relationships or financial interests (i) could or could reasonably be seen to exercise an improper influence over the objective, unbiased and impartial exercise of its independent judgement; or (ii) could or could reasonably be seen to compromise, impair or be incompatible with the effective performance of its contractual obligations;

“Consortium” means when more than one (1) business entities (i.e. Consortium members) agree to work together and submit one (1) Proposal to satisfy the requirements of the RFP. One (1) of the Consortium members shall identify itself as the Proponent and assume full responsibility and liability for the work and actions of all Consortium members;

“Cost Recovery Fee” or **“CRF”** means a fee, which contributes to the recovery of OECCM’s operating costs as a not-for-profit/non share capital corporation, which is based on the before tax amount invoiced by the Supplier to Customers for Deliverables acquired through OECCM’s competitively sourced agreements. Once Customer-Supplier Agreements have been executed, this fee is remitted by the Supplier to OECCM on a quarterly basis;

“Customer” means an organization such as educational entities (e.g. school boards or authorities, Provincial and Demonstration Schools Branch with the Ontario Ministry of Education, colleges, and universities, and may also include Private Schools and Private Career Colleges), Crown corporations, First Nations federal agencies, health and social service entities, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, provincially funded organizations (“PFO”), shared service organizations, utilities and local boards, any other Ontario Public Sector and Broader Public Sector agencies, boards or commissions or similar entities not mentioned here;

“Customer-Supplier Agreement” or **“CSA”** means a schedule attached to the Master Agreement, which is executed between Customers and a Supplier for the provision of the Deliverables in the RFP;

“Deliverable” means all System to be provided or performed by the Supplier, under the Master Agreement, and includes everything that is necessary to be supplied, provided or delivered by the Supplier within scope of the resulting Master Agreement;

“Eligible Proposal” means a Proposal that meets or exceeds the prescribed requirement, proceeding to the next stage of evaluation;

“Licensed User” is any user who can use the System against a purchased license. The definition can include for example, without being limited to, a teacher who uses the purchased license to teach a class or an undefined, rotating group of students from the Customer DSB who access the System either concurrently or sequentially.

“Master Agreement” or **“Agreement”** means the agreement to be made between the Preferred Proponent and OECM based on the template attached as Appendix B – Form of Master Agreement with negotiated changes, together with all schedules and appendices attached thereto and all other documents incorporated by reference therein, as amended from time to time by agreement between OECM and the Supplier;

“OECM” means the Ontario Education Collaborative Marketplace;

“OECM’s Deadline for Issuing Final Addenda” means the date and time as set out in Section 5.1.1 of this RFP and may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of this RFP;

“Ontario Tenders Portal” or **“OTP”** means the electronic tendering platform <https://ontariotenders.app.jaggaer.com/esop/nac-host/public/web/login.html> through which a Proponent’s Proposal must be submitted by the Closing Date;

“Optional Second Stage Selection Process” or **“Second Stage”** means a request from one (1) or more Suppliers via a Second Stage tool (e.g. Request for Services (“RFS”), or Customer’s process (e.g. directly or via an online e.tendering platform) from a Customer or from OECM on behalf of a Customer, seeking Rates and relevant System specific to a Customer’s organization;

“PFO” means a provincially funded organization;

“Personal Information” has the same definition as in subsection 2(1) of FIPPA and in subsection 2(1) of MFIPPA, that is, recorded information about an identifiable individual or that may identify an individual and includes all such information obtained by the Proponent from OECM or the Customer or created by the Proponent pursuant to the RFP;

“Preferred Proponent” means the Proponent that is invited into negotiations in accordance with the evaluation process set out in this RFP;

“Project Advisory Committee” or **“PAC”** means the individuals providing input into the development of this RFP, and may also evaluate Proposals received in response to this RFP;

“Proponent” means an entity that submits a Proposal in response to this RFP and, as the context suggest, refers to a potential Proponent;

“Proposal” means all documentation and information submitted by a Proponent in response to the RFP;

“Purchasing Card” or **“P-Card”** means the corporate charge cards used by the Customer, as may be changed from time to time;

“Rates” means the minimum percentage discount off a published list price and the maximum prices for the System, in Canadian funds, for the System as set out in the Proponent’s submitted Appendix C - Commercial Response;

“Request for Proposals” or **“RFP”** means this Request for Proposals #2020-366 issued by OECM, including all appendices and addenda thereto;

“Subcontractor” includes the Supplier’s subcontractors or third-party providers or their respective directors, officers, agents, employees or independent contractors, who shall fall within the meaning of Supplier for the purposes of the Master Agreement as mutually agreed upon by the Customer;

“Supplier” means a Preferred Proponent who has fully executed a Master Agreement with OECM and has assumed full liability and responsibility for the provision of Deliverables pursuant to the Master Agreement either as a single Supplier or a lead Supplier engaging other suppliers or Subcontractors;

“System” means all Products, i.e. Literacy Digital Tools, and/or Research Digital Tools and services (i.e. Training and other services) to be provided by the Supplier, under the Master Agreement, and includes everything that is necessary to be supplied, provided or delivered by the Supplier;

“Technical Envelope” means an area in OTP where the Proponent would complete Technical Response;

“Technical Response” means the information, which will be evaluated and scored, the Proponent submits within OTP as part of the Technical Envelope;

“Term” has the meaning set out in Part 1 of this RFP;

“Unfair Advantage” means any conduct, direct or indirect, by a Proponent that may result in gaining an unfair advantage over other Proponents, including, but not limited to (i) possessing, or having access to, information in the preparation of its Proposal that is confidential to OECM and which is not available to other Proponents, (ii) communicating with any person with a view to influencing, or being conferred preferred treatment in, the RFP process, or (iii) engaging in conduct that compromises or could be seen to compromise the integrity of the RFP process and result in any unfairness; and,

“Zone” means the OECM geographical boundaries within the Province of Ontario as identified in Appendix D – OECM Geographical Zones.

APPENDIX B – FORM OF MASTER AGREEMENT

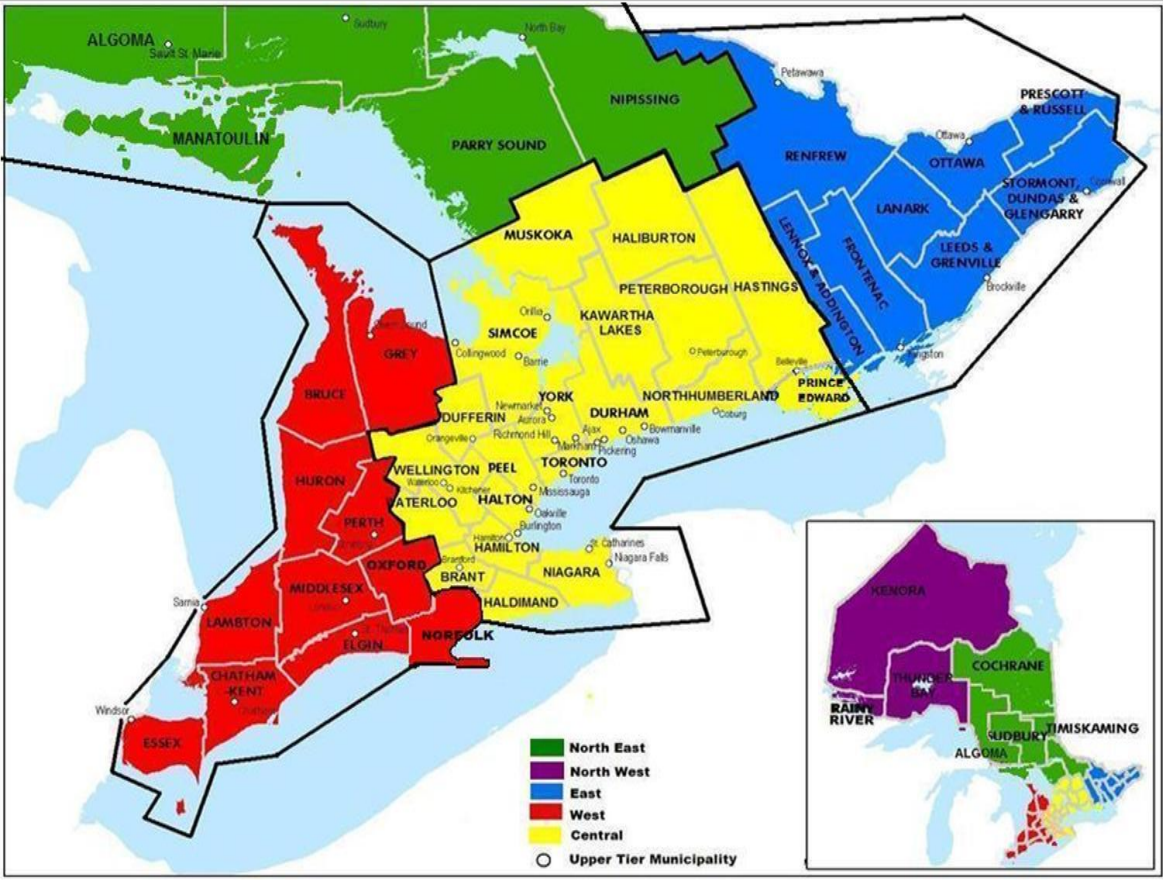
This appendix is posted as a separate PDF document.

APPENDIX C – COMMERCIAL RESPONSE

The Proponent should complete this appendix, posted as a separate Microsoft Excel document, and upload it into OTP.

APPENDIX D – OECM GEOGRAPHICAL ZONES

OECM Customers are located in one (1) or more of the following five (5) geographical Zones in Ontario.



APPENDIX E – OECM SCHOOL BOARD, COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CUSTOMERS IN ONTARIO

Zones	School Board Customers			College Customers	University Customers
Central	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board ("CDSB")	Hastings and Prince Edward DSB	Waterloo Region DSB	Centennial College of Applied Arts and Technology ("CAAT")	Brock University
	Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir	Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB	Wellington CDSB	Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning	McMaster University
	Conseil scolaire Viamonde	Niagara CDSB	York CDSB	Durham CAAT	OCAD University
	District School Board ("DSB") of Niagara	Peel DSB	York Region DSB	Fleming CAAT	Ryerson University
	Dufferin-Peel CDSB	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington CDSB		George Brown CAAT	Trent University
	Durham CDSB	Simcoe County DSB		Georgian CAAT	University of Guelph
	Durham DSB	Simcoe Muskoka CDSB		Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning	University of Ontario Institute of Technology
	Grand Erie DSB	Toronto CDSB		Loyalist CAAT	University of Toronto
	Halton CDSB	Toronto DSB		Mohawk CAAT	University of Waterloo
	Halton DSB	Trillium Lakelands DSB		Niagara CAAT	University of Western Ontario
	Hamilton-Wentworth CDSB	Upper Grand DSB		Seneca CAAT	Wilfrid Laurier University
Hamilton-Wentworth DSB	Waterloo CDSB		Sheridan College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning	York University	
East	Algonquin and Lakeshore CDSB	Conseil scolaire de district catholique ("CSDC") de l'Est Ontarien	Renfrew County CDSB	Algonquin CAAT	Carleton University
	CDSB of Eastern Ontario	Limestone DSB	Renfrew County DSB	Canadore CAAT	Queen's University
	Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est	Ottawa CDSB	Upper Canada DSB	La Cité collégiale	University of Ottawa
	Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario	Ottawa-Carleton DSB		St. Lawrence CAAT	
North East	Algoma DSB	Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario	Northeastern CDSB	Cambrian CAAT	Algoma University
	Conseil scolaire catholique de district des Grandes Rivières	DSB Ontario North East	Rainbow DSB	Collège Boréal	Laurentian University
	Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario	Huron-Superior CDSB	Sudbury CDSB	Northern CAAT	Nipissing University
	Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord	Near North DSB		Sault CAAT	
	Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	Nipissing-Parry Sound CDSB			
North West	CSDC des Aurores Boréales	Lakehead DSB	Superior North CDSB	Confederation CAAT	Lakehead University
	Keewatin-Patricia DSB	Northwest CDSB	Superior-Greenstone DSB		
	Kenora CDSB	Rainy River DSB	Thunder Bay CDSB		
West	Avon Maitland DSB	Greater Essex County DSB	St. Clair CDSB	Fanshawe CAAT	University of Windsor
	Bluewater DSB	Huron-Perth CDSB	Thames Valley DSB	Lambton CAAT	
	Bruce-Grey CDSB	Lambton Kent DSB	Windsor-Essex CDSB	St. Clair CAAT	
	Conseil scolaire catholique Providence	London District Catholic School Board			

APPENDIX F – REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Once CSAs have been executed, the Supplier must provide the following reports to OECM for the Term. Reports shall be submitted via email in Microsoft Excel format according to the frequency set out below.

Supplier Reporting Requirements		
Reports	Frequency	Due Date
<u>Integrated Reporting Template</u>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sales Report including, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Customer’s name; (b) Invoice number and date; (c) System provided (or System Category provided); (d) System description; (e) Quantity purchased; (f) Rate; (g) Total Rate per System/Service/hour; (h) Minimum percentage discount off published price list (%); (i) Copy of the published price list for the System; (j) Savings (i.e. list Rate minus discount, net Rate, savings); and, (k) Cost Recovery Fees. 	Monthly	8th Business Day
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. CSA Status Report including, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The number of executed CSAs; and, (b) CSAs pending execution. 		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Optional Second Stage Status Report including, but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Customer’s name; (b) Reference number; (c) Number of requests received and submitted; (d) System Requirement (e) Resulting savings; and, (f) Status (e.g. complete, due date to return to Customer). 		
<u>Performance Reporting</u>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”) Report - As set out in Appendix F – Performance Management Scorecard. 2. Performance results specific to Customer’s KPIs. 	Quarterly (calendar)	8th Business Day following each quarter
<u>Other Reports</u>		
1. Specific Customer Reports - As requested (e.g. spend, back order, delivery)	As requested	As requested
2. Specific Customer Performance Reports – As requested and mutually agreed upon	As requested	As requested
3. OECM Ad Hoc Reports - As requested and mutually agreed upon	As requested	As requested

Final reporting requirements will be determined during negotiations.

APPENDIX G – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCORECARD

Master Agreement performance means the Supplier aligns with OECM's three (3) pillars of Savings, Choice and Service, supporting the growth of the Master Agreement among Customers, and providing quality System at competitive Rates.

Supplier performance means the Supplier meets or exceeds the performance requirements described below and adheres to all the other contractual requirements.

As part of OECM's efforts to provide greater value to Customers, OECM has implemented a Supplier Recognition Program ("SRP"). Through the SRP, OECM will objectively assess Supplier's performance using an open, fair and transparent framework to recognize and reward top-performing Suppliers on an annual basis.

To ensure Master Agreement requirements are met, the Supplier's performance will be measured and tracked by OECM to ensure:

- (a) On time delivery of high-quality Resources at the Master Agreement Rates or lower;
- (b) Customer satisfaction;
- (c) On-time Master Agreement activity reporting to OECM;
- (d) On-time Cost Recovery Fee remittance; and,
- (e) Continuous improvement.

Reporting, as described in Appendix F – Reporting Requirements is mandatory for the Supplier to submit as they provide evidence and justification of adherence to the Master Agreement. Through consolidation of reporting information, OECM provides Customers a thorough understanding of the Supplier's performance aiding the adoption of the Master Agreement.

By providing the reports, OECM is able to analyze and maintain the integrity of the Supplier's performance.

Failure, by the Supplier, to provide accurate reports by the due dates set out in Appendix F – Reporting Requirements may be deemed poor performance and will reflect on the Supplier's Performance Management Scorecard and SRP results.

During the Term of the Master Agreement, the Supplier shall collect and report the agreed upon results of the performance measures as requested by OECM. The Performance Management Scorecard and other performance indicators will be used to measure the Supplier's performance throughout the Term of the Master Agreement, ensuring Customers receive appropriate System on time. The Supplier's performance score will be considered when OECM contemplates Master Agreement decisions such as:

- (a) The approval or rejection, in whole or in part, of the Supplier's Rate refresh requests;
- (b) The approval or rejection of the Supplier's request to add other related Resources to the Master Agreement;
- (c) Master Agreement extensions; and,
- (d) Master Agreement termination.

The Supplier shall maintain accurate records to facilitate the required performance management reporting requirements related to OECM and Customer KPIs.

During the business review, OECM will review the KPIs with the Supplier. The KPIs include but are not limited to the following:

Supplier Provided Customer Performance Measures			
Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measurement	Performance Goal	Penalties
Service Availability	Overall availability of the Service	99.9% minimum	As per Customer's requirements
Time to Restore	Time to restore the functionality of systems, including mainframe and servers.	One hour, 98% of the time	
System Downtime – Unscheduled	The amount of time that the system has an unscheduled downtime;	No more than 1 hour per month	
Disaster Recovery	Ability to recover the systems in the event of a disaster, with all systems functional and effectively working.	2 to 8 hours	
Timeliness Backup	Percentage of time that the backups are performed on time and free from errors and omissions.	99.9% minimum	
Technical Support Response Time	Response time of less than one (1) Business Day	98% of the time	
Account Executive Response Time	Response time of less than one (1) Business Day	98% of the time	

OECM Evaluation of Supplier's Performances			
Key Performance Indicator	Performance Measurement	Performance Goal	Penalties
Customer Issues – Number of Customer Complaints	Total of Customer complaints annually out of total number of CSAs	Customer complaints are less than 2% of total number of CSAs	
Integrated Reporting Template Remittance	Complete and On Time	98% of the time	
Executed CSAs received within thirty (30) days of execution	Complete and On Time	98% of the time	
Cost Recovery Fee Payment Remittance	Day of	98% of the time	
Response Time to OECM Inquiries	24 Hours	98% of the time	

Other KPIs, as mutually agreed upon between the Supplier and OECM, may be added during the Term of the Master Agreement.

Customer may, when executing a Customer-Supplier Agreement, seek other KPIs.

Penalties and Rewards

The Supplier shall be responsible for all liquidated damages incurred by the Customers as a result of Supplier's failure to perform according to the Master Agreement and/or Customer-Supplier Agreement. Additional penalties for failure to meet or rewards for exceeding the Master Agreement and/or Customer-Supplier Agreement requirements may be mutually agreed upon between the Customer and the Supplier, at the time of Customer-Supplier Agreement execution. Any penalty and/or reward shall be reported to OECM.

APPENDIX H – CODE OF CONDUCT

The Supplier will take every measure to comply with OECEM's Supplier Code of Conduct ("SCC") principles set out below and to adopt behaviours and practices that are in alignment with these principles or those of OECEM's Customers as mutually agreed upon between the Customer and Supplier. OECEM's core values are in alignment with and entrenched within the key principles of the SCC. The SCC applies to the Supplier's owners, employees, agents, partners and subcontractors who provide System to OECEM and/or Customers.

The Supplier will manage their operations according to the most stringent standards of ethical business, integrity and equity. The Supplier must therefore:

- (a) Refrain from engaging in any form of non-competitive or corrupt practice, including collusion, unethical bidding practices, extortion, bribery and fraud;
- (b) Ensure that responsible business practices are used, including ensuring that business continuity and disaster recovery plans are developed, maintained and tested in accordance with applicable regulatory, contractual and service level requirements, and that healthy and safe workplaces that comply with relevant health and safety laws are provided;
- (c) Ensure the protection of the confidential and personal information they receive from OECEM, and only use this information as part of their business relations with OECEM;
- (d) Comply with intellectual property rights relating to the System provided to OECEM and its Customers;
- (e) Never place an OECEM employee in a situation that could compromise his/her ethical behaviour or integrity or create a conflict of interest;
- (f) Divulge all actual and potential conflicts of interest to OECEM; and,
- (g) Disclose to OECEM any behaviour deemed unethical on the part of an OECEM employee.

Also, the Supplier shall:

- (a) Comply with all foreign and domestic applicable federal/provincial/municipal laws and regulations including, but not limited to the environment, health and safety, labour and employment, human rights and Product safety and anti-corruption laws, trade agreements, conventions, standards, and guidelines, where the System are provided to OECEM Customers. Fair competition is to be practised in accordance with applicable laws. All business activities and commercial decisions that restrict competition or may be deemed to be uncompetitive are to be avoided;
- (b) Not try to gain improper advantage or engage in preferential treatment with OECEM employees and Customers. The Supplier must avoid situations that may adversely influence their business relationship with OECEM or can be directly or indirectly perceived as a conflict of interest and interfere with the provision of the System to OECEM or its Customers. The Supplier must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest promptly to OECEM;
- (c) Never offer to OECEM staff bribes, payments, gifts of entertainment or any type of transactions, inducements, services, discounts and/or benefits that may compromise or appear to compromise an OECEM's employees' ability to make business decisions in the best interest of OECEM and its Customers. If a Supplier is unsure whether a gift or entertainment offer to an OECEM employee complies with OECEM's SCC, the Supplier should consult with the intended recipient's manager;
- (d) Not engage in any improper conduct to gain influence or competitive advantage especially that which would put OECEM or its Customers at risk of violating anti-bribery and/or anti-corruption laws. The Supplier must ensure that the requirements of all these applicable laws are met, and not engage in any form of corrupt practices including extortion, fraud or bribery;
- (e) Ensure that any outsourcing and/or subcontracting used to fulfill System are identified and approved by the Customer and monitored to ensure compliancy with contractual obligations and adherence to OECEM's SCC. Supplier's employees, subcontractors and other service providers must adhere to the requirements of the SCC, which must be made available as necessary. The Supplier must also ensure that its subcontractors and other service providers are paid properly and promptly to avoid any disruption in the provision of System by the Supplier to OECEM or its Customers;

- (f) Maintain workplace professionalism and respect for the dignity of all employees, Customers, and individuals. The Supplier must never exercise, tolerate or condone harassment, discrimination, violence, retaliation and any other inappropriate behaviour;
- (g) Abide by applicable employment standards, labour, non-discrimination and human rights legislation. Where laws do not prohibit discrimination, or where they allow for differential treatment, the expectation of the Supplier is to be committed to non-discrimination principles and not to operate in an unfair manner. The Supplier must be able to demonstrate that their workplaces operate under the following principles:
 - i. Child labour is not accepted;
 - ii. Discrimination and harassment are prohibited, including discrimination or harassment based on any characteristic protected by law;
 - iii. Employees are free to raise concerns and speak up without fear of reprisal;
 - iv. Appropriate and reasonable background screenings, including investigations for prior criminal activity, have been completed to ensure integrity and character of the Supplier's employees; and,
 - v. Clear and uniformly applied employment standards are used that meet or exceed legal and regulatory requirements;
- (h) Provide healthy and safe workplaces for their employees. These workplaces must comply with applicable health and safety laws, statutes and regulations to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. Employers must also ensure that their employees are properly trained and that they have easy access to information and instructions pertaining to health and safety practices; and,
- (i) Give high priority to environmental issues and implement initiatives to foster sound environmental management through practices that prevent pollution and preserve resources. The Supplier must conduct business in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner. The Supplier must comply with all applicable environmental laws, statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, waste disposal (proper handling of toxic and hazardous waste), air emissions and pollution, to ensure that they meet all legal requirements and strive to prevent or mitigate adverse effects on the environment with a long-term objective of continual improvement.

The Supplier is expected to:

- (a) Abide by OECM's SCC;
- (b) Report violations of the SCC or identify any Customer requests that might constitute violations; and,
- (c) Cooperate and collaborate with OECM and bring about the resolution of SCC compliance issues.

Compliance with SCC principles is a criterion that is taken into consideration in OECM's supplier selection process and ongoing performance and relationship management.

The practices adopted by the Supplier must be verifiable. Such verification may be conducted by way of a Supplier's self-evaluation and/or an audit completed by OECM at its discretion. The Supplier must provide, upon request, OECM with documents attesting to their compliance with the SCC.

In addition, OECM may elect to visit the Suppliers' facilities if OECM so chooses. Appropriate notice will be provided to the Supplier. Whenever a situation of non-compliance is identified, OECM will endeavor to work with the Supplier in order to develop a corrective plan to resolve the non-compliant issues in a timely manner.

Failure to comply with OECM's SCC may result in termination of this Master Agreement.

For more information, visit OECM's website at <https://oecm.ca/oecm-advantage/our-Supplier-partners/Supplier-code-of-conduct>.

APPENDIX I – ESCALATION PROCESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Escalation Description:

[Below is example only, supplier to fill out]

The Supplier will track quality and service issues via an electronic database. The first stage of escalation will be the Supplier’s customer service department.

The Supplier will act promptly on all error resolution. The Contract Specialist will ensure complete and satisfactory resolution. This will be regularly reported to OECM during the Business Review process.

Contact Information:

Department or Person of Contact	Availability (Hours)	Email	Telephone
EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE	EXAMPLE