ARCTIC - Remote Sensing Challenge

August 25, 2016

1. From page 8, specifically who is on the Innovator Selection panel?

   The selection panel is being finalized. The committee will consist of individuals from FPInnovations, and Foresight ARCTIC. We will also utilise the skillsets of NRC, IRAP or Sustainable Development Technology Canada. Inputs from FPI's industry members, government (federal and provincial), and academia will also be obtained. Meetings of the selection committee will occur as necessary to review the proposals and finalize the 2-5 sprint participants.

2. On page 9 of the RFP, it says that total funding is subject to "the availability of funds". Is this program fully funded?

   Yes, the funds are available, but not necessarily committed. In Sprint number one, the phases crossed over fiscal year ends and there was a requirement that the minimum number of applicable of proposals be met.

3. From page 7, can you elaborate what the committee is looking for in terms of "ease of application and adoption by industry"?

   The solution proposed can be used by industry without significant additional investment (e.g., hardware, software, etc.) other than the cost of the information/data.

4. Where are the LiDAR sample areas? How large are the areas? Will they be a mix of old and second growth? What elevation is data at, will snow limit ground access?

   There will be two trial sites (interior and coastal). The interior site will be in the Thompson-Okanagan / Cariboo-Chilcotin region. The coastal site will be on Vancouver Island. Depending on the blocks selected, sites will range from 80 ha to 250 ha. Stand will be second growth. Snow may limit ground access of interior site. **Final details will be shared with Sprint participants**

5. Will .las be classified as ground/non-ground?

   LiDAR data will be provided in .las (or .xyz) and will be classified as ground/non-ground.

6. Is any data available besides .las? Imagery, NiR?

   No other remotely sense data will be provided through the challenge at this time. Proponents are welcomed to obtain other sources of data with the funds available to them.

7. How much ground sampling will FP Innovations do? Is there existing cruise or other ground based inventory that will be available to participants?

   Existing standard cruise data (conforming to the BC Timber Cruising specifications) will be provided for both trial sites along with the LiDAR data. FPInnovations will supplement this by collecting additional ground data for validating the proposed technology/solutions. Final details on ground based data **will be shared with Sprint participants.**

8. How will success be measured? Will it be a combination of species accuracy and volume estimate? What will it be compared to?

   Error tolerance is relatively high; refer to the PDF in the package for guidance for error tolerances per individual unit of measurement. The goal is to meet the general standards of the ministry. The challenge is also to see if we can come up with a way of generating cutting permits. As this is more of a manual survey, the tolerance is relatively low. Ground based validation data will used to assess accuracy of species and volume estimates.