

Project Title: Evaluation of DFATD’s Development and Stabilization and Reconstruction Taskforce (START) Programming in South Sudan

A. AMENDMENT #1 TO INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

N/A

B. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No.	Questions	Answers
1	<p>How can we go about getting the required security clearances? In the past it seems that the security clearances were provided automatically after the contract was let, but this policy seems to have changed.</p> <p>At this stage in the process, we are trying to assess our eligibility to obtain the required security clearances, as articulated in section 13.1(c) of the Instructions to Bidders. More specifically, we would be grateful for your guidance on the required steps for our firm to apply for a DOS with CISD/PWGSC, and for our proposed team members to obtain RELIABILITY STATUS.</p>	<p><i>Please read section 13.1(c) of the Data Sheet for details on how to obtain the proper security clearances. For further information on obtaining the necessary security clearances, please visit the following website: http://iss-ssi.pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca/index-eng.html</i></p>
2	<p>What would you recommend for a team of mixed Canadian and South Sudanese consultants? Do we require individual security clearances or is this something that the company can get for all?</p>	<p><i>Please read section 13.1(c) of the Data Sheet for details on how to obtain the proper security clearances who requires one. Note that certain personnel (ie. Local Resources) might not be accessing any Protected B files and documents, in which case they will not be required to provide proof of Reliability Status security clearance. Also, refer to answer to question 6) below for details on security clearances for non-Canadians.</i></p>
3	<p>Please provide the list of Fragile and Conflict-Affected States that will be used for the proposal assessment, keeping in mind that the composition of the list has changed over the past 20+ years. Could you tell us whether Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be considered for the purposes of this proposal?</p>	<p><i>The following list will be used for proposal assessment, taking into account all countries until the end of High Warning (rank 1 to 109 for 2014): http://fsi.fundforpeace.org/</i></p> <p><i>Please keep in mind that the list is updated on an annual basis, and the lists from previous years can be accessed on the top right of the above page. For 2014 cutoff is 109 Suriname, 2013 its 108 Namibia, 2012 its 107 Paraguay/Kazakhstan, 2011 its 108 Tunisia, 2010 its 108 Micronesia. Therefore, if you refer to an individual’s work experience in a given Fragile and/or Conflict-Affected State, between 2010-2014 to meet mandatory M3.3, we will verify the list for each of those 5 years to ensure that this country was in that list</i></p>

<p>4</p>	<p>A detailed explanation as to how the number of years for M3.3 will be quantified is essential since this is a Mandatory Requirement; the unit of measure (months/days) and the minimum # of units required per year would be needed. Also, can employment/project start-end dates be used to calculate eligible experience, or only billed level of effort as the basis of calculation. For example, how many years of experience would a proposed team member be credited with if he worked for 5 calendar years in an eligible country for an IHA in a senior management position with oversight responsibility for: program implementation, providing and mobilising TA, and designing and managing project evaluations? Or, how many years of experience would a proposed team member be credited with if they have conducted project evaluations in eligible countries over a ten year span, but the total level of effort does not exceed 60 months / 1,200 days of billable fees?</p>	<p><i>every one of those 5 years.</i></p> <p><i>Please refer to the definition on Page 74 of the RFP, under Section 5 Evaluation Criteria – Relevant Definitions, I. "Year of Experience": means a minimum of 150 working days of work experience within a period of twelve (12) consecutive months. Bidders need to clearly state the length of employment for each of their assignments (using employment/assignment start-end dates) when filling out the Employment History section of TECH 6A, taking into account that a year is a minimum of 150 days of work..</i></p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Is it requested that the Evaluation Team Leader as well as the 3 additional evaluators (sectorial evaluators) are Canadians?</p>	<p><i>This is an ICB (International Competitive Bidding), therefore the Team Leader as well as all the other personnel do not have to be Canadian.</i></p>
<p>6</p>	<p>With reference to the data sheet, item 13.1(c), I understand that the Evaluation Team Leader and the 3 sectorial evaluators must have at a minimum a valid reliability security clearance. If we hire someone from outside Canada, the consultant would not have a valid security clearance. Would that be permitted?</p>	<p><i>Please read section 13.1(c) of the Data Sheet for details on how to obtain the proper security clearances and who requires one. Note that certain personnel (ie. Local Resources) might not be accessing any Protected B files and documents, in which case they will not be required to provide proof of Reliability Status clearance. Also, it is possible for non-Canadians residing in Canada to obtain Reliability Status. Regarding non-Canadians outside of Canada, there is a list of about 14 countries with which Canada has a Memorandum of Understanding for security clearances, whereby Canada accepts those countries` security clearances as equivalent to Canada`s. The list is available here: (http://iss-ssi.pwgsc-tpsgc.gc.ca/gvrnmnt/risi-iisr-eng.html).</i></p> <p><i>For bidders who are unable to obtain the required clearance, section 13.1(c) of the</i></p>

		<p><i>Data Sheet in the RFP states: <u>“If the Bidder is unable to obtain such a designation, the Bidder must refrain from accessing such Protective Information and consent to DFATD performing various checks and assessments to determine the Bidder’s eligibility, from a security point of view, to access Protected Information and assets.”</u></i></p> <p><i>And for the security requirement of the personnel: <u>“If an individual is unable to obtain such a designation, he/she must comply and consent to DFATD performing various checks and assessments to determine his/her reliability.”</u></i></p> <p><i>In other words, if the bidder or any of its personnel is unable to obtain the required security clearance, the bidder and its personnel must consent to DFATD performing checks and assessments to determine their security status.</i></p>
7	<p>In the RFP a number of different types of insurance are required by the Consultant. Do these have to be in place as part of the bid submission or can these been arranged after the contract is let? Section 13.1c of the RFP indicates that bidders must hold a valid Designated Organization Screening (DOS) and that team members must hold a valid Reliability Status. Can you please advise whether it is mandatory to have this security clearance in place at the time of bid submission, or if this can be applied for prior to contract award?</p>	<p><i>As indicated in the ICB RFP, the insurance requirements and meeting the security requirement is a condition of the contract award and not a mandatory requirement at bid submission.</i></p>
8	<p>I was also wondering if it would be possible to receive the forms (TECH 1 through 6) in Word format?</p>	<p><i>TECH forms in Word format have been added as part of this Addendum 1 and are available for download to everyone interested.</i></p>
9	<p>Under Section 9. Technical Proposal - Mandatory Forms to Be Provided, Sub-section 9.1 (Signed TECH-1), the RFP states “If a Bidder is a consortium or a joint venture, the Bidder’s Proposal must include a signed TECH-1 from each Member. Bidders are requested to print TECH-1, fill it in MANUALLY, sign and attach it as page 1 of their Proposal”. Due to the physical location of the firm we are entering into a joint venture with, would it be possible for them to complete this form manually, however,</p>	<p><i>PDF format it fine, as long as the TECH-1 is signed.</i></p>

	send it to us in PDF format? Or must they complete manually and send us the "ORIGINAL" form by mail or courier?	
10	Which TECH forms should be used to present the information required for R4.3?	<i>Form TECH-6B</i>
11	Are the R4.1 and R4.2 criteria for ALL personnel, or do they exclude the team leader?	<i>All personnel.</i>
12	Are the assignments to be presented for R4.3 meant to be the same as those presented for R4.1?	Yes
13	If we would like to use some local thematic experts to complement the expertise of the core evaluation team, if at all, how and where should their relevant details (i.e CVs or bios) be included in the proposal?	<i>The roles and responsibilities of the local resources are defined in Section 4 Terms of Reference under 12.3 Local Resources - Specific Responsibilities. Their involvement should be defined in the Proposed Approach section of the technical proposal. No CVs or forms are necessary. All other team members should be evaluated under R3.1, R4.1, R4.2 and R4.3 using TECH 6A and TECH 6B</i>
14	Referring to section 1.12, Conflict of Interest, draft Standard Form of Contract "...the Consultant acknowledges that it will not be eligible to bid, either as a Consultant or as a Sub-consultant or Contractor (including as an individual resource) or to assist any Third Party in bidding on any requirement relating to the work performed by the Consultant under this Contract...": Can DFATD confirm whether this clause means that the firm(s) implementing this country program evaluation would be ineligible to bid on, or apply for, future DFATD project implementation contracts in South Sudan?	<i>Firm(s) implementing this country program evaluation will be eligible to bid on future DFATD project implementation contracts in South Sudan.</i>

C. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED