FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

INVITATION TO TENDER NO. MOVE/B2/2014-825

"FOR A SERVICE PROVISION CONTRACT REGARDING MEASURING AND UPGRADING THE CLEARANCE GAUGES OF RAILWAY LINES"

CONTRACT NOTICE: OJEU 2014/S 086-148713 OF 03/05/2014

Update 27/06/2014

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Question 1:

It is written that the tender has to include at least a rail-road operator, an entity specialized in measuring clearance gauge, 2 IMs, RUs and a project coordinator.

Could you give us more information on the role that you foresee for RUs and IMs in that consortium, as far as consultations are foreseen with RUs in the market study and a study of at least 6 IM’ information systems is required?

Answer:

In principle, bidders have to propose the way they plan to organise the work. The Commission then compares bids on this basis. Therefore I cannot provide more information in this message then you find in the call. But let me recall a few things from the tender specifications:

1. There is a split of tasks and there are requirements for the minimum composition of the consortium. This does not mean that every consortium member has to be involved in every task.

2. According to task 1 and 2 on page 11, different existing systems of infrastructure managers have to be assessed and users have to be consulted on their experience with these systems. It is nowhere said that all these infrastructure managers and all the consulted users have to be members of the consortium. The same holds for the market study according to task 3.
**Question 2:**

We closely read through all the tender specifications and contractual documents trying to find an information about it is to handle, if a potential partner company of our consortium has two departments which would like to participate on the one hand in our proposal and with the other department in the a compleitive proposal.

The exclusion criteria do not state anything about that issue. Hence, could you please give us a feedback if this problem would lead to an exclusion of our proposal for the call?

**Answer:**

Indeed the call does not exclude one company participating in two different tenders. Therefore this is no exclusion criterion.

**Question 3:**

Would you have available a version of annex 1, 2 and 3, in a format where it is possible to complete the information within the text?

**Answer:**

In reply to your request, please find attached the 3 annexes in word format (see at the end of the document)

**Question 4:**

Can you please confirm to me that the selection committee evaluating the criteria specified in the technical specification and deciding on the best offer, is only composed of staff of the European Commission?

**Answer:**

The evaluation committee can be composed of staff of the European Commission, seconded national experts, contract agents (CA) and staff from agencies. Trainees cannot be members.

However, our financial procedures stipulate the following:

"External or internal experts and/or observers may also assist the committee by decision of the Director responsible and have to be included in the appointment decision. …. Experts and observers have no decision power. Each has to sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality if s/he participates in the evaluation."
Question 5:

Pour mon information, les annexes signées jointes au projet doivent-elles être les originaux, ou une copie/scann peut aussi convenir ?

Answer:

Voulez-vous trouver la réponse à la première page du contrat de notice: "submit a tender in one original [and two copies]", bien entendu que l'annexe fait partie du tender.

Question 6:

a) Do we have to separate our financial offer from our technical offer or can we write only one document ?

b) If partner companies represent less than 20% of the work in terms of budget, do you need any formal signature?

Answer:

a) separate

b) The declaration is to be signed by all contractors, including the consortium partners in the case of a joint tenders, and by all sub-contractors whose intended share of the contract will be 20% or above.

Question 7:

How does "meeting the requirements for application under EU cohesion and TENT-T funds" mean as regards the qualification of the civil engineering experts?

Answer:

The tenderer has to demonstrate that the two experts in civil engineering have prepared applications for projects meeting the requirements of these funds. It is not necessary that these applications/projects/studies were all selected for funding.

Question 8:

Does the European Commission have considered the question of the extension of the deadline?

Answer:

The deadline has been extended until 30 June 2014.
Question 9:

Relying on the deadline extension for this invitation and the following response given by you in the context of identical situation of invitations to tender No MOVE/B2/2014-826 and No MOVE/B2/2014-827:

"We would like to offer you a following choice:

– The Commission will send the tenders back, unopened, so that you can submit the modified versions, or

– You will submit new tenders, adding cover letters that clearly declare the current tenders void, and to be replaced with the new one.

On both cases, the condition is that the tender must be submitted in no later than 30/06/2014 and be full, containing administrative, financial and technical part with all the required annexes.

Please reply in shortest delays, preferably today. If you choose the first option, please indicate the address."

I would like to ask you, whether we could get back the unopened proposal submitted in the light of previous deadline in order to modify the administrative proposal.

Answer:

Yes, this option was published here in order to be available to all tenderers in the same situation. Commission services can only hand out unopened tenders to persons that present a written empowerment for this purpose duly signed by the lead partner and are able to identify themselves as being the persons referred to in the empowerment. But please be reminded that the valid deadline to submit a tender is 30/06/2014, so the time span is very short. It is the responsibility of the tenderer to submit his tender in time.