

National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited

Name of the Project: Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for 2 laning with paved shoulder in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Package 1: Srinagar-Minamarg).

Reply to Pre-Bid Queries

S. No.	Clause	Description	Suggestion/Query	Reply
1	Table 1 Minimum Eligibility Requirements Page 29	Indicative Length	In order to smoothen the bidding process and evaluation process of the technical proposals client is kindly requested to consider same indicative length for all the 5 packages. This will drastically reduce the bidder's efforts of preparing separate bids and will also reduce client's efforts during the evaluation stage Kindly confirm.	As per RFP.
2	Table-1: Minimum Eligibility Requirements, Page 29	(iii) If the applicant firm has / have prepared the DPR/FS projects solely on its own, 100% weightage shall be given. If the applicant firm has prepared the DPR/FS projects as a lead partner in a JV, 75% weightage shall be given. If the applicant firm have prepared the DPR projects as the other partner (not lead partner) in a JV, 50% weightage shall be given. If the applicant firm have prepared the DPR/FS projects as an associate, 25% weightage shall be given.	The Consultants understand that in case project has been undertaken in Association (with Sub-Consultant) and not in Joint Venture then the lead partner will be given 100% weightage of the experience. Kindly confirm.	Yes.
3	Clause No.2.1 of SCC	Performance Security As per clause 2.1 of SCC, the consultant will furnish within 15 days of the issue of Letter of Acceptance (LOA), an unconditional Bank Guarantee equivalent to 5% of the total	As per recent guidelines issued by Government of India, it has been communicated that Department of Expenditure vide OM No.F.9/4/2020-PPD	As per Amendment no. 1.



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		contract value	dated 12 th November 2020 has decided to reduce Performance Security from existing 5% to 3% of contract value. The clauses shall be changed accordingly. The office memorandum is enclosed as Annexure A.	
4	Clause 6.2, Page 17	Further, in case where the bid of the successful consulting firm is less than 85% of the average of all bids received, the successful consulting firm shall have to submit an Additional Performance Security (APS) in the form of a Bank Guarantee for 30% of the differential value between the successful bid and average of all the bids received subject to maximum of 10% of the contract value. The BG shall be valid for a period of [8+2] months i.e. upto 2 months beyond the expiry of the Contract of [8] months. The other requirements of APS are same as those of Performance Security.	As per recent guidelines issued by Government of India, it has been communicated that Department of Expenditure vide OM No.F.9/4/2020-PPD dated 12 th November 2020 has decided to remove the provision of additional performance security from the bid documents. Thus, the clause should be deleted. The office memorandum is enclosed as Annexure B.	As per Amendment no. 1.
5	Clause 6.3 (d) of GCC,	It is stated that the Client shall cause the payment of the Consultants in Para 6.4(b) as given in schedule of payment.	Since the referred Clause 6.4(b) does not exist, it is felt that the stated Clause 6.4(b) should be read as 6.3(b). The Client is requested to modify this Clause.	As per Amendment no. 1.



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6	Clause No. 7.2 of GCC	Retention Money An amount equivalent to 10% of the contract value shall be retained at the end of the contract for accuracy of design and quantities submitted and the same will be released after the completion of civil contract works or after 3 years from completion of consultancy services, whichever is earlier. The retention money will however be released by the Client on substitution by Bank Guarantee of the same amount valid upto the period as above. <u>Out of this 15%, 10% shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee and 5% shall be the amount retained from Consultancy fee payable to the Consultant.</u>	As per Clause No.7.2 of GCC, the total amount towards Retention Money is 10% of the contract amount. Hence, the Client is requested to kindly modify the last lines of the Clause as " <u>Out of this 10%, 5% shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee and 5% shall be the amount retained from Consultancy fee payable to the Consultant.</u> "	As per RFP.
7	Clause No. 9.4.4 of SCC,	Qualifications of Arbitrators In the Clause No. 9.4.4 of SCC, there is a reference of Clause 8.2.1.	Since the referred Clause 8.2.1 does not exist, it is felt that the stated Clause 8.2.1 should be read as 9.4.2. The Client is requested to modify this Clause.	As per Amendment no. 1.
8	Clause No. 4.5.2 of GCC,	Removal and / or Replacement of Personnel It is stated that the Authority will not consider any substitution of Key Personnel except under compelling circumstances beyond the	The Consultants would like to mention that in most of the projects funded by Multilateral agencies such as ADB, World Bank, etc. there is no penalty for replacement of Key Personnel. The	As per RFP.

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		control of the Consultant and the concerned Key Personnel. Such substitution shall be limited to not more than three Key Personnel subject to equally or better qualified and experienced personnel being provided to the satisfaction of the Authority. Replacement of the Team Leader will not normally be considered and may lead to disqualification of the Applicant or termination of the Agreement. Replacement of one Key Personnel shall be permitted subject to reduction of remuneration equal to 5 % (five per cent) of the total remuneration specified for the Key Personnel who is proposed to be replaced. In case of second replacement the reduction in remuneration shall be equal to 10% (ten per cent) and for third and subsequent replacement, such reduction shall be equal to 15% (fifteen per cent). The maximum age limit of replaced key personnel shall be 65 years as on the date of submission of proposal for such replacement.	<p>Consultants shall have to provide a suitable replacement, a person of equivalent or better qualification and experience at the same rate of remuneration.</p> <p>Since a large number of Consulting assignments are ongoing and being proposed in the country, individuals tend to shift jobs frequently and resign. This is beyond the control of the consulting firm & thus any penalty to be imposed on the firm for replacement of staff, in such cases, which is beyond their control, is unfair. Instead, the Client may consider debarring the concerned nominated member of the team for certain period who has given the consent and does not provide his input on the assignment.</p> <p>Hence, it is requested that these paras may please be deleted and consultant be allowed to propose alternate equivalent or better candidate in case a replacement is required at the same rate of remuneration.</p>	
9	Clause 3.2.4, Page 11	v) The age limit for key personnel is 65 years as on the date of bid submission. The proof of age and qualification of the key personnel must be furnished in the technical proposal.	The Consultants would like to comment that there are very well experienced experts who have crossed 65 Years of age but are available and fit enough to take up	As per RFP.



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		vii) Age limit for supporting staff to be deployed on project is 65 years as on the date of bid submission.	the roles as mentioned in the RFP. The client may like to take the call on fitness of experts during their interaction with the experts before their mobilization and may like to approve their engagement on the project. In case experts are not found suitable by the client, the consultants shall be providing the replacement CV. In view of the above the Client is kindly requested to amend the age limit of Key personnel and other experts to 70 years. Kindly consider and confirm.	
10	Table 1, Minimum Eligibility Requirements	1(c) Firm should have also prepared DPR for at least one high altitude (2000 mtr or more above MSL) highway project of 2/4/6 laning of minimum 5% of the indicative length of the package or feasibility study of 2/4/6 laning of minimum 7.5% of the indicative length of the package.	It is requested that instead of high altitude (2000 m or more above MSL); the criterion may be kept of hilly/mountainous terrain as per the prevailing practice.	As per RFP.
11		General	We request you to provide us the Tentative Alignment map of the Project.	The Consultant is requested to visit the site.
12	Page No.29. Table-1: Minimum Eligibility Requirements.	Firm should have also prepared DPR for atleast one high altitude (2000 mtr or more above MSL) highway project of 2/4/6 laning of minimum 5% of the indicative length of the package or feasibility study of 2/4/6 laning of minimum 7.5% of the indicative length of the	In the last 7 years, there are not many Road DPR prepared for high altitude locations. Hence for getting better competition we request you to reduce the altitude to 1200 mtr or more from MSL.	As per RFP.

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		package		
13	Page 16	Performance Security Bank Guarantee equivalent to 5% of the total contract	With reference to the Office Memorandum issued by Ministry of Finance Department of Expenditure Procurement Policy Division regarding the Performance Security on 12 th November 2020, we request you to reduce the PBG to 3% as per the memorandum	As per Amendment no. 1.
14	Page No.33-34, Clause 12.4	Third stage – Evaluation of Financial proposal The weight given to Technical Proposal (T) = 0.70. The weight given to Financial Proposal (f) = 0.30	Request you to make evaluation as per standard practice of Technical – 80 and Financial - 20	As per RFP.
15		General	Because of increase in competition, Consultants are quoting rates which are not workable. Hence we request you to access the financial proposal of all the consultants by implementing the clause of "Reasonable Financial Proposal". "If 3 or more Financial Proposals are opened, Average of all the opened Financial Proposals shall be determined. A Financial Proposal shall be considered "reasonable" if its variation from the average is within (+) /(-) 20% of the average . Only bidders with a "Reasonable Financial Proposal" shall be	As per RFP.

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			considered for determining the "most preferred bidder (H-1 bidder)" based on QCBS	
16		General	We request you to provide us the extension by atleast 2 weeks after the prebid points reply.	As per Amendment no. 1.
17	Enclosure II, Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key Personnel, (i) Educational Qualification, Team Leader cum Senior Highway Engineer, Page No. 120.	Post graduate in Civil Engineering (highways /structures / traffic and transportation / soil mechanics and foundation engineering/Construction Management /Transportation) {AICTE Approved}	Post graduate in Civil Engineering (highways /structures / traffic and transportation / soil mechanics and foundation engineering/Construction Management /Transportation) {AICTE Approved}/Graduate with 25 years' service having retired as Chief Engineer/Director/Superintending Engineer having worked in Public Works Department at Centre/State/UT level.	As per RFP.
18	Enclosure II, Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key	Masters in Bridge Engineering / Structural Engineering	Masters in Bridge Engineering / Structural Engineering/ Graduate with 25 years' service having retired as Chief Engineer/Director/Superintending	As per RFP.
19	Personnel, (i) Educational Qualification,		Engineer having worked in Public Works Department at Centre/State/UT level.	As per RFP.

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	Senior Bridge Engineer, Page No. 120.			
20	Enclosure II, Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key Personnel, (i) Educational Qualification, Highway cum Pavement Engineer, Page No. 120.	Highway cum Pavement Engineer	Highway cum Pavement Engineer/ Graduate with 25 years' service having retired as Chief Engineer/ Director/Superintending Engineer having worked in Public Works Department at Centre/State/UT level.	As per RFP.
21	Enclosure II, Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key Personnel, (i) Educational Qualification, Material Engineer – cum – Geotechnical Engineer cum Geologist, Page	Material Engineer – cum – Geotechnical Engineer cum Geologist	Material Engineer – cum – Geotechnical Engineer cum Geologist/ Graduate with 25 years' service having retired as Chief Engineer/ Director/ Superintending Engineer having worked in Public Works Department at Centre/State/UT level.	As per RFP.

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	No. 120.			
22	Enclosure II, Qualification and Experience Requirement of Key Personnel, (ii) Experience, (c) Experience in similar Capacity Senior Bridge Engineer	Bridge Engineer in highway design consultancy projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/ Expressways) involving design of minimum two major bridges (length more than 200 m)	Bridge Engineer in highway design consultancy projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/ Expressways) involving design of minimum two major bridges (length more than 200m) /Construction/Widening of Hilly roads may also be considered.	As per RFP.
23	Highway cum Pavement Engineer Material Engineer – cum – Geotechnical Engineer cum Geologist	Pavement design for major highway projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/Expressways) of minimum aggregate length of 80 km.	Pavement design for major highway projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/Expressways) of minimum aggregate length of 80 km./Construction/Widening of Hilly roads may also be considered.	As per RFP.
		Material cum Geo-technical Engineer on highway projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/Expressways) of minimum aggregate length of 80 km.	Material cum Geo-technical Engineer on highway projects (2/4/6 lane NH/SH/Expressways) of minimum aggregate length of 80 km./ Construction/Widening of Hilly roads may also be considered.	
24	Data Sheet, Sub- Section-C, Qualification and	-	There might arise the need for a tunnel in some stretches, specifically in the route Khanabal-Baltal, and, considering	As per RFP.



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	relevant experience of the proposed key personnel, Page No. 33		the difficult terrain and challenging project, the following Key Personnel must be added to the existing list: 1. Tunnel Expert 2. Intelligent Transport Management Specialist. Further, the following key personnel will be an added advantage: 1. Drainage Expert 2. Electrical Expert	
25	Data Sheet, Point No. 3, Page No. 27	3. Duration of the Project: 08 months	As three routes out of the five proposed packages will be snow-bound in a couple of weeks, and will remain so, for the next 4-6 months, it is requested to amend the time period accordingly.	As per RFP.


B. Shivprasad
General Manager (T)
04.12.2020