First Set of Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultancy Services for the Development of a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in Hermel Lebanon

Issue Date: 31 October 2019
Prepared by the Lebanese Center for Energy Conservation (LCEC)
Note 1: Proposal is due on 26 November 2019 at 3:00 p.m. All proposals received after the mentioned date and time will be rejected.

Note 2: The LCEC gathered all questions received between the launching of the RFP and the issue date of this document to reply with one set of answers.

Q1. “In section I, point 130, Form c Methodology, ‘2) Number of Proposed Storage Types Under Study’, what does the ‘Storage Types’ mean?”
A1. The feasibility study includes a section where the consultant should consider other technologies with similar storage capacities. Hence, storage type could be for example, batteries, pumped hydro, solar salt, synthetic oil, multiple capacities…

Q2. “Could you tell me where to find a CDR qualified list? Can you offer me a document or a website, please?”
A2. Kindly find the companies qualified by CDR in appendix 1.

Q3. “Can you tell us how to find the Tender notice? And how to buy a bid document? Or the ‘Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultancy Services for the Development of a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in Hermel Lebanon’ is the bid document?”
A3. The “Request for Proposal (RFP) for Consultancy Services for the Development of a Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) Plant in Hermel Lebanon” is the bid document. This document is free of charge and there are no other documents that should be bought.

Q4. “Is there any important date for bidding before November 26, 2019?”
A4. No, this is the only date mentioned in the RFP that should be respected.

Q5. “Please confirm that travel and lodging costs are to be including the lump sum price, and will not be reimbursed separately.”
A5. All costs incurred by the proposal should be included in the lump sum price. No reimbursements will be completed separately. The costs could be detailed in “Form 13 – Financial Form” for more clarity.

Q6. “Point 153 of the RFP indicates that 20 trips to Lebanon by all five key experts is required. Please confirm that this means 20 trips in which the 5 experts each travel, for a total of 100 person-trips.”
A6. This point means that the 5 experts should have combined between them a minimum of 20 trips to Lebanon for an average of 4 travels to Lebanon per expert.
Q7. “Point 87 mentions a bid deposit. This is not mentioned elsewhere. Is there a bid deposit and, if so, what is the required amount?”
A7. There is no bid deposit, hence the disqualified bidder will not have to forfeit anything.

Q8. “Point 117 indicates that a minimum of 650 man-days “should be submitted for the key experts…” we assume that the effort of junior staff cannot be used to reduce this effort level of the key experts. Please confirm.”
A8. The 650 man-days are exclusively for the key experts. Man-days of junior staff should be accounted for separately.

Q9. “As indicated in Point 120, the prospective maximum durations for Phases 1 and 2 are 9 and 5 months, respectively. This means the detailed ESIA of Phase 2 must be carried out within the shorter duration, 5 months.”
A9. This is true, except the detailed ESIA should be completed during a duration of 3 months as could be seen in the “Timeframe” section in the “Technical Specifications Book”, table 1.

Q10. “Point 124 indicates that two solar irradiance stations must be installed at the prospective site location. How long is the desired period of data collection from these stations?“
A10. This point will be evaluated under “Quality/Type of sub-studies proposed for each deliverable” which is the first point in the methodology part in the “Technical Scoring” section. The desired period of data collection is 2 years.

Q11. “The document states that "The bidder shall prepare one (1) copy of the proposal”. Please confirm that when you refer to "copy" that is the only copy to be delivered, not one (1) original and (1) copy.”
A11. We confirm that only one copy should be delivered to the LCE offices. But this copy must contain 2 separate folders, one containing the technical offer and one containing the financial offer.

Q12. “The document states at point 130, subject Current Activities in the Solar Market “4. Current Activities in the Solar Market” the following: “*Based on previously completed ESIAs and consultancy projects”. Please advise if “previously completed” is a mistake and it should be “currently”.”
A12. This is a mistake. The point should be “*Based on undergoing ESIAs and consultancy projects”
Q13. “In point 130, subject Previous Experience in the Solar Market please clarify if only experience in CSP industry must be considered or PV projects can be taken into consideration as well.”

A13. The experience in both international and Lebanese solar markets is counted for all projects related to solar energy and not only CSP.


A14. We confirm that Form 8 is the relevant form to complete the solar energy experience.

Q15. “For some different members of the team, "Experience in Lebanon and MENA region" is scored. Please, could you clarify is the experience in Lebanon and the experience in other MENA country will be scored equal? If not, please clarify the difference.”

A15. Experience in Lebanon and the MENA region will be scored equally.

Q16. “An engineer with more than 20 years of experience in the MENA region but not in Lebanon, would he be scored with 50 or with 0?”

A16. Experience in Lebanon and the MENA region will be scored equally. Hence an engineer with more than 20 years of experience in the MENA region but not in Lebanon will be scored with 50.

Q17. “There is no experience required for a mechanical engineer. This is a specific qualification very tie to CSP power plants. Is there any missing role?”

A17. The experience is scored for the five key experts mentioned in the RFP. Other team members will be evaluated in point 9 of the team and tasks part “Overall Evaluation of the CV’s of Team Members”.

Q18. “Please confirm that there is a typo error regarding the allocation of the scoring: We understand that the lower the better, for instance, for phase I "less than 6 months" should be 50 instead of 20, and 20 should be allocated to "between 6 and 9 months".”

A18. There is no typo in this point. We want to ensure the quality of the study and not involve the companies in a race with time in order to win the bid. In any case, the bidder should not exceed the mandatory deadlines mentioned in the Qualification Criteria – Stage 1, point 120 “Project completion date: the completion date for the project must not exceed 9 months following contract signature for phase 1 and 5 months after the Go/No Go Moment”.

Q19. “We believe the approach is to have a local company as the leader for this project; without local presence, we would then act as a subcontractor for the solar technology part. If we act as a subcontractor, can our experience in Solar projects still be considered for the criteria
defined in section I Technical Scoring? It looks that only the leader or the JV experience can be included, not the subcontractor’s one.”

A19. Only the experience of the joint venture will be counted in the experience in solar projects section. Hence the subcontractor’s experience will not be counted.

Q20. “Regarding the installation of two weather stations in the Hermel region, is this a must-have requirement? From previous assignments, we know that the ground data from the weather stations is essential to calculate an accurate TMY (typical meteorological year) but we typically recommend, at least, to have 1 year of collected data before carrying out such analysis. Therefore, we believe that the ground data collected by the two weather stations to be installed during this study may not be right away usable since there will be not enough data to perform an accurate statistical analysis; as a result, we would like to know if there is other available data in the Bekaa region that could be used for this purpose, and the need for the installation of two weather stations could be eliminated. In particular, we would like to know how many DNI stations are there at Hermel or nearby, and how long they have been collecting data there.”

A20. The weather stations are a must-have requirement. The study might identify several suitable lands for the CSP plant in the Hermel region, and will have to install a weather station in each of these lands. These stations might not be used for the current study but the collected data will be used in the future bid to build the CSP plant. However, there is another DNI station in the region, and at the time of initiation of the study, it will have collected data for 11 months or 1 year. Otherwise the companies will use the climatic data provided in appendix 1 of the RFP.

Q21. “Are subcontractors bound by exclusivity clauses or can they submit applications with multiple joint ventures.”

A21. Subcontractors can submit their offers with multiple joint ventures. This does not apply to the joint venture members. If the subcontractor is a joint venture member in one of the proposals, he cannot submit with any other proposal even if he was only applying as a subcontractor in other applications.

Q22. “Is total limit budget of EUR 580k for phases I and II of the scope in the RFP?”

A22. Yes, this is the budget limit for the totality of the project.

Q23. “In the RFP two different regions are mentioned: Bekaa and Hermel. What is the target region for the study? We believe that it is Hermel, the mention to Bekaa may be a mistake.”

A23. Hermel is a sub-region of the Bekaa.
Q24. “If we have to install the weather stations, we would recommend recording, at least, 1 year of data. Is this 1-year period aligned with your expectations?”
A24. The desired period of data collection is 2 years.

Q25. “If we have to install the weather stations, we would recommend that LCEC holds the ownership of them since the beginning of the project. Is this aligned with your expectations?”
A25. The ownership will return to LCEC once the project is completed. In the meantime, ownership should remain with the consultant who will be responsible for the maintenance of the stations.

Q26. “We are a bit concerned about the security for the weather station. The weather station can be located some km away from the selected location for the CSP plant. Can security be provided through the government? Can you please describe if there are some buildings that belong to LCEC, the Ministry of Energy and Water or any other institution that may let us install the weather stations in Hermel or in a location close to the Hermel region?”
A26. There are no buildings related to the LCEC in the area where the stations could be installed. The area and security of the weather stations will be secured in coordination with local authorities. There are lots of municipal lands in the region that could be used near the potential locations for this purpose.
Appendix 1- List of Prequalified Consultants by CDR

معالي وزير البيئة المحترم

الموضوع: لائحة بالمكاتب الهندسية الاستشارية اللبنانية المؤهلة لدى مجلس الإنجاء والإعمار ضمن خانة الدراسات البيئية

- كتابا رقم 6861/ب تاريخ 11/11/2014

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع والمرجع المبينين أعلاه:

وعظماً على كتابكم المشار إليه في المرجع أعلاه، المتضمن طلباً تزويديكم بإسم لائحة المكاتب الهندسية الاستشارية اللبنانية المؤهلة لدى مجلس الإنجاء والإعمار لدراسة أو الإشراف على تنفيذ المشاريع في فئة الأعمال المختلفة – خانة الدراسات البيئية، على أن يصر على تزويدكم بإعمام بإحراز طرأ على هذه اللائحة، بين أثناء اللائحة المطلوبة، وذلك بدلاً من تلك الوارد في كتاباً رقم 6861/ب تاريخ 11/11/2014:

- ACE - Associated Consulting Engineers
- Al Mouhit Consulting Engineers (MCE)
- Beirut Business Management Consultant (BBMC) S.A.R.L.
- BTD - Bureau Technique pour le Développement
- BTUTP - Bureau Technique d’Urbanisme & des Travaux Publics
- Dar Al Handassah (Nazih Taleb & Partners)
- Dar Al Handassah Consultants (Shair & Partners)
- Delta Engineering Studies
- Earth Link & Advanced Resources Development SAL - ELARD
- Ecocentra S.A.R.L.
- Ecodit Liban S.A.R.L.
- El Bacha L.L.C.
- Engico Consulting Engineers
- Engineer Roger Georges Khalil
- Engineering & Environmental Consultants S.A.R.L.
- Engineering, Design & Environmental Services - Edessa
- Envirotech Ltd.
- Geoflнт S.A.R.L.
- Geti
- Gicome - Antoine Salamé & Associés
- Information International Ltd.
- Issa Consulting
- Jouzy & Partners CEB
- Kabbara & Associates
- Khatib & Alami, Consolidated Engineering Co.
- Kredo s.a.l.
- Lebanese Arab Co.For Eng. & Consultancy "Laceco"
- Libanconsult AGM
- Matrix Engineers
- Maurice Bonfils Architecte (MBA)
- Mazen Ramadan - Consulting Engineers
- Middle East Engineers and Architects s.a.r.l.
- Mores S.A.R.L.
- Nicolas Gerges & Sons (Scte N.Gerges & Fils)
- Rafik El-Khoury & Partners Consulting Engineers
- S.E.S. Sustainable Environmental Solutions S.A.L
- Santec
- Services Design Technology Lebanon SARL (SDT)
- Spectrum Engineering Consultants S.A.R.L.
- Touma Engineering SARL-Engineering & Research
- Team International
- TURBA Ltd

فلكما بأن هذه اللائحة هي عرضة للتعديل وفق المعطيات التي ترد إلى المجلس من قبل المكاتب الهندسية المختلفة.

وبفضلكم بقبول فائق الاحترام.

[Signature]