



Tender No.: 27900-2015

Invitation to Participate in Negotiated Process for the Project “Environmental Studies / Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIA) for the Construction of the EuroAsia Interconnector”

Supplement 1: Response to inquiries submitted by interested Economic Operators

Date: Monday, 09 February 2015

Question: *The financial statements for the last reference year (i.e. 2014) have not yet been audited in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Is it possible to provide the financial statements for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013 instead?*

Answer: It is not possible to provide financial statements for a period other than the one referenced in the Invitation to Participate. As per the instructions provided in the template of “Form 3” attached to the Invitation, if the financial statements for the last reference year have not yet been audited in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), you must submit a statement regarding the financial information, signed by the Management of the enterprise and accompanied by a certification issued by a certified accountant or by some other person with equivalent qualifications applicable in the country from which that person comes. The figures given in all columns must be calculated on the same basis, to allow direct year-on-year comparisons to be made (or, if the basis has changed, an explanation of the change must be provided as a footnote to the Table).

Question: *Do all projects quoted in “Form 4” need to have been undertaken in the Mediterranean?*

Answer: As per Article 5, paragraph 4(d), Candidates should include in Form 4, all projects which demonstrate that they meet the participation requirements specified in items (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 of Article 4. Therefore, it is not required that all projects presented in Form 4 have been undertaken in the Mediterranean but only that they fulfil the requirements described only in Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Invitation.

Question: *Do we need to specify subcontractors during the “Request to Participate” stage?*

Answer: No. It is however required, for preselected Economic Operators who are invited to participate in the “Award Stage” to indicate in their proposal, the specific part of the contract that

they intend to subcontract to third parties, as per paragraph 5 of Article 3 of the Invitation to Participate.

Question: *The “Specialization Field” of “Form 4”, refers to high-level information as to which company will undertake each aspect of the assessment or more details (e.g. named individuals) are required?*

Answer: High-level information only is required at this stage. The specialisation fields should be those stated in Article 4 of the Invitation to Participate. Candidates should only place a tick at the appropriate specialisation field as corresponding to the expertise of the Candidate (or in the case of Consortia, the Leader and participating members of the Consortium respectively) as follows

- If the Candidate is a single entity, simply tick the specialisation field(s) in the “Leader” column.
- If the Candidate is a Consortium, tick the specialisation field(s) of the consortium Leader in the “Leader” column. For each additional member of the consortium use a separate column, write the name of the Company in its header and tick the appropriate specialisation field(s) of the Company.

Question: *In case that an Economic Operator has implemented less contracts but of higher value than another, will this result in his exclusion?*

Answer: As long as an Economic Operator is able to demonstrate the equivalent required experience of at least three (3) contracts fulfilling the requirements of paragraph 1 of Article for they will typically not be excluded. However if more than 5 candidates fulfill the technical criteria for prequalification (as stated in paragraph 5 of Article 4), then the comparative evaluation of the Candidates will be conducted as presented in Article 6, paragraph 9.

Question: *Is licensing, required in advance, a responsibility of the Contractor?*

Answer: Yes, the licensing procedures should be undertaken by the Contractor

Question: *Is experience of sub-contractors acceptable as fulfilling the requirements of Article 4?*

Answer: Yes. As mentioned in paragraph 4 of Article 4, interested Economic Operators may rely on the capacities of other entities to fulfil the technical and professional ability requirements. This includes subcontractors. In this case however, the interested Economic Operators must submit sufficient evidence proving to the satisfaction of DEH-Quantum Ltd. that they will have such resources necessary at their disposal should they be awarded the contract. Examples of

such evidence include written agreement(s) between the interested Economic Operator(s) and the subcontractor(s) or a signed statement by the subcontractor(s) attesting to the above.

Question: *Concerning Form 6 are CV's and other resources required at the Pre-Selection Stage?*

Answer: No. Project team experience will be evaluated at the award stage as part of the criteria for evaluating the pre-selected Economic Operators' Technical Proposals.

Question: *Please can you supply editable versions of the 6 forms to be submitted with the above tender?*

Answer: Yes, the forms can be downloaded from this link
http://www.euroasia-interconnector.com/News-Procurement_of_the_Environmental_Studies_EIA,36?Period=

Question: *What are the dates of the different stages in the procurement procedure;*

Answer: The dates pertinent to the award stage of this tender process will be provided to preselected candidates upon completion of the pre-selection stage.

Question: *The document makes reference to the updated EIA Directive that came into force last year and has not been transposed into Member State's law yet. In proving experience is it possible to refer to a different Directive such as 85/337/EEC?*

Answer: The requirement stipulated in the first bullet of Article 4, paragraph 1 (a), which makes reference to Directive 2014/52/EU, may be equally fulfilled with contracts demonstrating experience in environmental impact assessment studies performed in compliance with the corresponding European Union legislation in force at the time said contracts were executed. Therefore Candidates may refer to different corresponding Directives to fulfil the above requirements. In this case, Candidates must clearly indicate in "Form 4" the corresponding Directive(s) (and if applicable sector Directives) which were in force at the time of execution of each and that the study was performed in compliance with that directive.

Question: *Can examples of former experience concern contracts implemented in some of the subject areas of the study?*

Answer: No, as stated in Article 4 paragraph 1(b) the contracts presented should include all the points mentioned Article 4 paragraph 1(a) . Contracts demonstrating experience in some of the subject areas of the study are admissible as valid experience, however the contracts presented by Economic Operators as evidence of their experience must fulfil in total the equivalent of at

least three (3) contracts performed in the last ten (10) years addressing all areas of the study as described in paragraph 1(a) of Article 4.

Question: *Will the interested economic operator be required to provide support in any consultations?*

Answer: Yes, it is expected that the selected contractor will provide support and be part of the consultation process with all relevant authorities

Question: *What is the scope of the study? Does it cover all the four locations onshore and offshore?*

Answer: Yes, all areas should be covered onshore and offshore up to a sea depth that will be specified at a later stage.

Question: *Will the selected contractor be expected to undertake surveys onshore or/and offshore?*

Answer: Yes surveys should be undertaken both onshore and offshore.

Question: *Will sufficient information be provided from the beginning for the implementation of the Environmental Studies or will an iterative procedure be expected?*

Answer: The Contracting Authority will make every effort possible to provide as much information upfront so as to minimize iterative process and speed up the execution of the study. However a degree of iteration must be expected since technical details regarding execution of the project may change along the way.

Question: *In the case that the Economic Operator is a consortium of persons, is it required to name all the members that constitute the consortium at this stage?*

Answer: Yes, it is required to name all the members that constitute the consortium at this stage. As per Article 3 paragraph 2 of Invitation to Participate, consortia of natural and/or legal persons may jointly participate in the Tender, under the condition that the participation proportion of each person of the consortium is clearly stated in the Request for Participation.

Question: *Could a certification from the competent Environmental Authority that would certify the competency and expertise of the interested office in successfully executing EIAs replace the requirements mentioned in article 4 paragraph 3?*

Answer: No, as mentioned in article 4 paragraph 3 Interested economic operators should be certified in accordance with the CYS EN ISO 9000 series of Cyprus standards, by a recognised Institute or Organisation, for the provision of services similar to those put out to tender, or hold some other equivalent certification issued by Organisations having their registered office in Member States of the European Union, or other proof of the existence of equivalent quality assurance measures for the services that they provide.

Question: *Could you please confirm whether all consortium members should be certified in accordance with the CYS EN ISO 9000?*

Answer: Yes, as mentioned in article 4 paragraph 3 Interested economic operators should be certified in accordance with the CYS EN ISO 9000 series of Cyprus standards, by a recognised Institute or Organisation, for the provision of services similar to those put out to tender, or hold some other equivalent certification issued by Organisations having their registered office in Member States of the European Union, or other proof of the existence of equivalent quality assurance measures for the services that they provide. It is understood that if the interested economic operator is a consortium of persons, the above requirements must be met by all consortium members.