

AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION/MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT

BPA NO.

1. CONTRACT ID CODE

PAGE

1

OF PAGE

3

2. AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION NO.

2

3. EFFECTIVE DATE

July 17, 2009

4. REQUISITION/PURCHASE REQ. NO.

5. PROJECT NO. (If applicable)

6. ISSUED BY

CODE

Regional Office of Procurement
USAID RDM/A
5th Floor, GPF Witthayu Towers A
93/1 Wireless Road
Bangkok, Thailand 10330

7. ADMINISTERED BY (If other than Item 6)

CODE

8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF CONTRACTOR (No., street, county, State and ZIP Code)

To all Offerors/Bidders

(X)

9A. AMENDMENT OF SOLICITATION NO.

USAID-RDM/A-China-486-09-031-RFA

9B. DATED (SEE ITEM 11)

06-26-2009

X

10A. MODIFICATION OF CONTRACT/ORDER NO.

10B. DATED (SEE ITEM 13)

CODE

FACILITY CODE

11. THIS ITEM ONLY APPLIES TO AMENDMENTS OF SOLICITATIONS

☒ The above numbered solicitation is amended as set forth in Item 14. The hour and date specified for receipt of Offers ☐ is extended, ☒ is not extended.

Offers must acknowledge receipt of this amendment prior to the hour and date specified in the solicitation or as amended, by one of the following methods:

(a) By completing Items 8 and 15, and returning _____ copies of the amendment; (b) By acknowledging receipt of this amendment on each copy of the offer submitted; or (c) By separate letter or telegram which includes a reference to the solicitation and amendment numbers. FAILURE OF YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO BE RECEIVED AT THE PLACE DESIGNATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF OFFERS PRIOR TO THE HOUR AND DATE SPECIFIED MAY RESULT IN REJECTION OF YOUR OFFER. If by virtue of this amendment you desire to change an offer already submitted, such change may be made by telegram or letter, provided each telegram or letter makes reference to the solicitation and this amendment, and is received prior to the opening hour and date specified.

12. ACCOUNTING AND APPROPRIATION DATA (If required)

13. THIS ITEM APPLIES ONLY TO MODIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS/ORDERS,
IT MODIFIES THE CONTRACT/ORDER NO. AS DESCRIBED IN ITEM 14.

(X)

A. THIS CHANGE ORDER IS ISSUED PURSUANT TO: (Specify authority) THE CHANGES SET FORTH IN ITEM 14 ARE MADE IN THE CONTRACT ORDER NO. IN ITEM 10A.

B. THE ABOVE NUMBERED CONTRACT/ORDER IS MODIFIED TO REFLECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES (such as changes in paying office, appropriation date, etc.) SET FORTH IN ITEM 14, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF FAR 43.103(b).

C. THIS SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY OF:

D. OTHER (Specify type of modification and authority)

E. IMPORTANT: Contractor ☒ is not, ☐ is required to sign this document and return _____ copies to the issuing office.

14. DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENT/MODIFICATION (Organized by UCF section headings, including solicitation/contract subject matter where feasible.)

The purpose of this RFA amendment is to provide answers to questions received regarding this RFA.
These are detailed in Attachment A of this Amendment.

All other terms and conditions indicated in the RFA issued on June 26, 2009 remain unchanged.

Except as provided herein, all terms and conditions of the document referenced in Item 9A or 10A, as heretofore changed, remains unchanged and in full force and effect.

15A. NAME AND TITLE OF SIGNER (Type or print)

16A. NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTING OFFICER (Type or print)

Craig Riegler
Regional Agreement Officer

15B. CONTRACTOR/OFFEROR

(Signature of person authorized to sign)

15C. DATE SIGNED

16B. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

BY

(Signature of Contracting Officer)

16C. DATE SIGNED

7.16.2009

ATTACHMENT A:

Q&A

USAID-RDMA-China-486-09-031-RFA

USAID received the following second set of questions regarding the RFA and is providing the following responses:

Question No. 1: Would RDMA be interested in receiving an application on quantifying GHG emissions from the LULUCF sector as in response to this RFA?

USAID Response: USAID/RDMA intends to support a new US-China environmental partnership program focusing on clean energy solutions that promote real and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Quantification of GHG emissions from traditional activities associated with the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector are not applicable.

Question No. 2. Would a proposal submission be acceptable as a free standing application or would it be better submitted in partnership with other organizations that will be more focused on the brown sectors in energy intensive industries?

USAID Response: It is in each organization's discretion to partner with other organizations in formulating a response to the RFA.

Question No. 3. Would a development and demonstration of a 100MW Biomass-fired Power Plant or constructing low carbon areas in one of the provinces in China be acceptable proposals under this RFA?

USAID Response: Please consider the RFA's evaluation criteria and the associated provisions of Section C (particularly the objectives and the Expected Outcomes provided in Section C.III) and submit a proposal that your organization believes will satisfy the program description to the fullest extent.

Question No. 4. This RFA is written to allow for a far-ranging response to the problem. But how strictly will the reviewers define their terms? Would the terms of the RFP prohibit addressing comprehensive building energy reduction as "clean energy"?

USAID Response: Energy efficiency is included among the several applicable technical areas considered for this Request for Applications, and that would include end-use efficiency considerations in buildings. Please note that USAID/RDMA is currently implementing an ongoing program in China to support green buildings, the US-China Sustainable Buildings Program. More information is available on the USAID/RDMA website, <http://www.usaid.gov/rdma>.

Question No. 5: What delivered results would USAID/RDMA be looking for after three years, do you have any thoughts as to components of the proposal that should be strengthened or dropped to be in better keeping with the goals of the RFA?

USAID Response: RDMA cannot respond to the merits of any proposed technical activities at this stage of in the procurement process. Again, please refer to the Evaluation Criteria in Section B and the objectives and expected outcomes provided in Section C.III to ensure proposed activities are consistent with the intended impacts of the program.

Question No. 6: Would a proposal to develop a Chinese version of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program - but specific to China's needs be applicable under this RFA?

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USAID Response: A program to support LEED-related activities would be applicable within the terms of the RFA. Again, please see USAID Response to Question 4 regarding USAID/RDMA's existing green buildings program, which supports building certification.

Question No. 7: Do you already have a short list of excellent candidates for this RFA, or is this RFA wide open?

USAID Response: This is a full and open competition RFA and U.S. educational institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can apply to this RFA.

Question No. 8: How much of the work and research is expected to take place in China?

USAID Response: The majority of work is expected to occur in China, and essentially all work must achieve measurable impacts and results in China.

Question No. 9: This seems designed for 1 winning application. This is unusual. Has this been written targeted primarily to a particular applicant (or team), or a particular technology?

USAID Response: Please note that the cover letter of the RFA states that "Although one cooperative agreement award is anticipated under this RFA, USAID in its discretion may make awards to more than one organization." Furthermore, this is a full and open competition RFA and the RFA was not designed to target any primary applicant or a particular technology.

Question No. 10: Space Solar Power is a technology to provide electric power on earth collecting sunlight in space. It produces no GHG emissions, and is available to all nations on earth. Would this be considered a viable candidate topic for this announcement?

USAID Response: Please refer to the Evaluation Criteria in Section B and the objectives and expected outcomes provided in Section C.III to ensure proposed activities are consistent with the intended impacts of the program. Please also note that this solicitation is not intended to support R&D activities.

Question No. 11: Is a biomass gasifier that produces heat and power for use in remote or rural communities and could displace coal electricity and natural gas heating be a viable topic?

USAID Response: As a form of renewable energy, this would be applicable within the terms of the RFA. Again, please refer to the Evaluation Criteria in Section B and the objectives and expected outcomes provided in Section C.III to ensure proposed activities are consistent with the intended impacts of the program.

Question No. 12: Would carbon capture and storage (CCS) be deemed a suitable topic for an application under this RFA?

USAID Response: The Program Description identifies three main objectives that are based on priorities outlined in the Roadmap for US-China Cooperation. These include: improving energy efficiency and conservation; promoting renewable energy; and quantifying GHG emissions. Other areas for US-China collaboration which are described in the Roadmap but not listed in the RFA are not applicable to this solicitation. Thus, areas that are not applicable include: "deploying low-emission coal technologies" (including carbon capture and storage) and "developing an advanced electricity grid" (including adoption of "smart grid" technologies).

Question No. 13: In the cover letter, the RFA indicates that "(f)our (4) hard copies of submissions should arrive by the due date." On page 1 of Section A, however, the RFA states that "applications shall be submitted in two separate parts: (a) technical and (b) cost or business application. An original and one (1) hard copy of the technical application and an original and one (1) hard copy of the cost application shall be submitted in addition to the electronic submission, as described in the cover letter of this RFA."

- a. Please clarify how many hard copies of the technical and cost applications USAID requires

- b. Would USAID consider allowing applicants to submit proposals electronically by the specified closing date, with hard copies arriving up to one week later?

USAID Response: Four (4) hard copies the technical proposal and 2 hard copies of the cost application are required by the due date of submission of proposals. Both the electronic and the hard copies must arrive at USAID, RDMA, Bangkok, Thailand by the due date of the RFA in order to be considered.

Question No. 14: The RFA contains the statement: "USAID program funds for this solicitation may not be provided to either US or Chinese government entities or officials, although Chinese government entities may be beneficiaries of program activities (e.g., capacity building activities)." Does this allow the use of program funds for service organizations (e.g., research institutes, universities, etc.) which are operated by the government? Can funds be used to ensure the involvement of their staff in program activities (e.g., for travel, honoraria, equipment, or other related expenses)? "Are corporations (e.g., commodity exchanges, trading companies, etc.) whose stock is primarily owned by the government considered government entities?"

USAID Response: Please read carefully the guidelines in the RFA. It is up to the applicant to make a determination on what type of organizations can be beneficiaries of USAID funds and justify the use of program funds.

Question No. 15: Can USAID provide the geographic code for procurement of goods and services for this program?

USAID Response: The source and origin of procurements under this agreement will be in accordance with the Standard Provisions titled "USAID ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR GOODS AND SERVICES (APRIL 1998)" and "Local Procurement". The clause provides the basis for determining the Source/Origin based on the procurement element of the award being over or under \$250,000. If the value of all proposed procurements during the award is over \$250,000 then the source and origin geographic code will be 000 (United States).

Question No. 16: Is it possible for applicants to propose a specific Project Name for its application under this RFA, or does USAID prefer to use "US-China Clean Energy and Climate Partnership" for consistency of all applications?

USAID Response: There is no preference to use the RFA name and it is acceptable for an applicant to propose a specific project name for its application under this RFA.

Question No. 17: On page 3 of the RFA, the list of Annexes for the technical application includes item D. Representations and Certifications. Are they to be included with the technical application annex, or as part of the cost application per usual?

USAID Response: Representations and Certifications are to be included as an annex to the cost application.

Question No. 18: On page 4 of the RFA, item B requests a signed letter of commitment from proposed partners. It is not among the items listed on page 3 under Annexes. Please confirm this should be included as an Annex.

USAID Response: Signed letters of commitment from proposed partners shall be a part of the annexes to the technical proposal.

Question No. 19: Please advise if additional items may be included (within reason) as Annexes to the technical application.

USAID Response: Additional items may be included as Annexes as appropriate.

Question No. 20: Could you make available a list of organizations interested in this RFA and contact information for these organizations in order to further collaborations and partnerships?

USAID Response: This is a full and open competition RFA which was posted on the US government agency website www.grants.gov. USAID/RDMA is therefore unaware of which organizations may be interested in the RFA and doesn't maintain a list.

Question No. 21: Is there any limit on the number of subgrantees/subcontractors to be included in a single proposal?

USAID Response: There are no limits to the number of subgrantees/subcontractors but please keep in mind that it is the prime that will be responsible for managing the subgrantees/subcontractors. Please be aware of the "Management Approach and Key Personnel" evaluation criteria in the RFA.

Question No. 22: Are electronic signatures acceptable for any of the required signatures outlined in the RFA for the hard copies, commitment letters, and representations and certifications?

USAID Response: Yes, electronic signatures are acceptable for submission of commitment letters and representations and certifications.

Question No. 23: Under Section 2, relating to Technical Application Format, in sub-section vi, it is stated that there are to be no more than three Key Personnel, and that resumes must be provided for those staff. (1) Is it a correct understanding that no other resumes are requested? (2) Additionally, can a proposal include more than three resumes, to incorporate non-Key Personnel? If so, do those count against the page limitation, and can they be included in non-page limited Annex material. Will either additional evaluation points or penalties be awarded for submitting resumes for non-key Personnel?

USAID Response: No other resumes are requested beyond what is stated in the RFA. Proposals may include more than three resumes, but they are not required. Additional resumes will not count towards or against USAID's scoring of a proposal based on the evaluation criteria. All items included as an Annex will not count towards any page limitations.

Question No. 24: Under an assumed Cooperative Agreement format, are the staff proposed by bidders required to be priced at below the regular USAID maximum daily rate/salary limits (ES-6), or do those maximum rates not apply to this award format?

USAID Response: Cost has not been assigned a score but will be evaluated for cost reasonableness, allocability, allowability, cost effectiveness and realism, adequacy of budget detail and financial feasibility and cost sharing. While cost may be a determining factor in the final award(s) decision, especially between closely ranked applicants, the technical merit of applications is substantially more important under this RFA. Further, all proposed costs will be analyzed closely and clarification questions will be issued to the apparent winner during the negotiation phase and before award.

Question No. 25: If an approach includes substantial and important engagement with local partners that will become known only through the course of the program based on the program model, and those partners would be participating as sub-grantees, can bidders include in their budgeting an estimated budget required for a certain number of such sub-grantee partners? Is there any other means of maintaining flexibility to provide as-yet-unidentified sub-grantees with funding for their participation in the program?

USAID Response: An applicant may include a budget estimated to implement activities that are based on the program where the partner is yet identified. The applicant should be able to identify activities and its associated costs and include it in the cost application submission since all costs are based on estimates.

Question No. 26: The RFA, while leaving open the possibility of multiple smaller awards, anticipates a single award of \$6 million over three years. In order to design a project with discrete and achievable objectives that contribute real on-the-ground benefits, we feel that it may be beneficial to narrow the scope of the project to a single province (that would serve as a pilot program that would subsequently be scaled up). While we have yet to do a full breakdown of anticipated costs, it may be that our proposal falls below the \$6 million threshold. Would it be possible to give us a sense of the prospect of funding being available for smaller awards?

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USAID Response: USAID will weigh all proposals based on technical merit and ability to achieve the stated objectives and expected outcomes, not on cost.

End of Amendment 2