

Questions and Responses

RFP AFGHANISTAN ELECTRICITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

QUESTION: Are consultants required to spend the stated full four (4) weeks in Afghanistan or can the time spent in-country be less by optimizing meeting schedules and other engagements?

ANSWER: No, consultants are not required to spend a full four weeks in Afghanistan. If the bidder believes they can accomplish the work in less time they should propose and justify an alternate schedule within the technical proposal's "proposed work schedule" section.

QUESTION: Will there be one trip of four weeks or short trips of 1-2 weeks?

ANSWER: There will be one trip of four weeks.

QUESTION: Does USEA expect the consultants to travel around Kabul or outside of Kabul? Will all meetings occur in one designated secure location?

ANSWER: USEA expects the consultants to meet with key stakeholders in and around Kabul; we do not foresee any travel outside of Kabul. The meetings will not be held in one designated location.

QUESTION: What insurance does USEA offer? Does this include repatriation?

ANSWER: USEA offers international Health and Accident Coverage through GeoBlue, this includes coverage for repatriation of remains. More information can be found at: <https://ogse.geobluestudents.com/downloadFile.cfm?ac=NBM-20210&doc=brochures>

QUESTION: Is there any restriction, such as a USAID geographic code? Will US firms be allowed to make teaming arrangements?

ANSWER: There is no restrictions on teaming arrangements. The only firms not allowed to participate are those subject to OFAC regulations and those that are barred from working with the U.S. Government (a full list can be found on the System for Award Management).

QUESTION: Would one trip to Afghanistan be sufficient with the rest of the work completed in the consultants' home city?

ANSWER: Yes, USEA will only be arranging one trip to Afghanistan. Any additional work can be done in the consultants' home city.

QUESTION: Is it necessary for the team to be based out of the US?

ANSWER: No. The only firms not eligible to visit are those subject to OFAC regulations and those that are barred from working with the U.S. Government (a full list can be found on the System for Award Management).

QUESTION: Will USEA book secured hotels for the consultants in Afghanistan?

ANSWER: Yes, USEA will be arranged secured hotels in Kabul for the consultants.

QUESTION: Will USEA arrange for security guards for local travel?

ANSWER: Yes, USEA will be arranging for security services in Kabul. This will include armored vehicles for any transportation around Kabul.

QUESTION: USEA will arrange logistics—for the financial proposal, only labor rate is to be included?

ANSWER: To be included in the financial proposal will be all labor, other direct costs, indirect costs, and level of effort for each employee proposed for the project. USEA will cover the following costs: airfare, per diem, visas, lodging, security services, health and accident coverage, and airport transfers.

QUESTION: What is the page limit for the technical proposal, two pages per task or two pages total?

ANSWER: Two pages *per task* is acceptable—this will allow for six pages total.

QUESTION: What is the maximum page limit for the “bio sketches of personnel”?

ANSWER: There is no maximum page limit, but please be reasonable and limit experience to the last ten years in necessary.

QUESTION: Is there a limit for the number of project experiences to be provided in the “summary of relevant experiences”? Is there a page limit to describe one project experience?

ANSWER: Please limit this section to no more than 15 pages; there is no limit to describing one project experience.

QUESTION: Is there a page limit for the “summary of work”?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: Is the bid winner required to recruit local consultants for the senior advisory panel or would USEA identify them?

ANSWER: No. USEA has two additional RFPs out for this assessment, both are available on the USEA website for review. One RFP is to identify a local hire to assist with making arrangements for meetings and the second RFP is for hiring the advisory panel.

QUESTION: Is the cost of the members of the senior advisory panel part of the bidder’s budget?

ANSWER: USEA will be covering the cost of this under a separate RFP. The RFP is currently published on the USEA website: “Local Electricity Sector Expert Support—Afghanistan Electricity Sector Governance and Management Assessment”.

QUESTION: Are bidders required to have a “Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number” and proof of current registration in the System of Award Management (SAM)”?

ANSWER: Yes, however USEA will accept proof that the company and/or individual is the process of obtaining a DUNS number and SAM registration. More information can be found out here: <https://www.sam.gov/SAM/>. The winning bidder must have both before the contract is signed.

QUESTION: Is one individual consultant allowed to bid with multiple consultancy firms?

ANSWER: Yes.

QUESTION: Who covers the insurance cost of the expat consultants?

ANSWER: USEA will cover the cost of international Health and Accident Coverage through GeoBlue. More information can be found at: <https://ogse.geobluestudents.com/downloadFile.cfm?ac=NBM-20210&doc=brochures>

QUESTION: Under schedule and locations, the proposal mentions work to be carried out in the US, along with all in-person meetings to be held at the USEA offices in Washington, DC. Please clarify if the work is to be carried out from the US or can be carried out from the country the firm is bidding from?

ANSWER: These meetings can alternatively be held in the bidder’s location.

QUESTION: The period of performance is between April 1, 2019- June 30, 2019 but the actual assignment is only for six weeks, with the time period in the bullets adding up to a total of six weeks. What is the timing and schedule of this project?

ANSWER: All work to be completed should be planned on occurring during the overall period of performance. We anticipate the project to take about six total weeks to complete, with four weeks in Kabul. Please include a proposed project schedule in your technical proposal.

QUESTION: There are only two technical experts for three required heads (1. Electric utility governance, 2. Electric utility management, 3. Power sector governance, regulation, and private sector participation). Please clarify.

ANSWER: Yes, we expect the winning bidder to be comprised of two technical experts that have some combination of experience of the three listed areas.

QUESTION: Will there be travel related expenses covered from home country to the United States?

ANSWER: If necessary to complete the project then yes, however we can also hold the meetings in an alternate location.

QUESTION: Will the documents in the appendices be provided prior to the closing of this RFP?

ANSWER: All documents mentioned in the RFP will be provided to the winning bidder upon contract signing.