REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

UNITED STATES ENERGY ASSOCIATION

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

EASTERN EUROPE NATURAL GAS NETWORK DEVLEOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (NGP)

GAS SIMULATION MODELING SOFTWARE AND TRAINING

The United States Energy Association (USEA), in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is seeking proposals from qualified software vendors to provide natural gas simulation modelling software for gas transmission system operators (TSOs) in Eastern Europe who will participate in the "Eastern Europe Gas Network Development Partnership." The software will serve as a common platform for the participating TSOs to develop national network development models and to ultimately have them integrated into a common regional model.

The software vendor will also be required to provide a series of training workshops on the use of the software for the member TSOs to build sustainable institutional capacity to develop the national and regional network models and to utilize the models for network analyses.

BACKGROUND

USAID is launching a new regional program known as the "Eastern Europe Gas Network Development Partnership." The partnership will provide a forum for the gas transmission network system operators in the region to develop national and common regional gas network development models, perform technical analyses to optimize gas network infrastructure development, and discuss topics of common interest.

The following seven (7) organizations will participate. It is anticipated that up to five (5) additional TSOs in the region will join the working group in the near future:

1. AlbGas (Albania Gas TSO)
2. Sarajevo Gas a.d. (BiH)
3. BH-Gas d.o.o. (BiH)
4. Plinacro d.o.o. (Croatia)
5. Ministry of Economic Development, Department for Energy (Kosovo)
6. GA-MA AD – Skopje (Macedonia)
7. Montenegro Bonus (Montenegro)

SCOPE OF WORK

Natural Gas Modelling Software

The Vendor will provide natural gas planning software and maintenance & support packages to each of the seven (7) NGP Working Group members. The software must include the following functionality:

- System model integration capability
- Off-line (steady-state) gas transmission system hydraulic analysis and optimization (with dynamic and on-line upgrade options availability)
- Optimisation of pipelines and equipment (pipes, compressors, regulation stations, controlled valves and other equipment optimization capabilities)
- Pressure range of at least 10-150 bars

- Capability to include an unlimited number of elements or nodes

The following software functionalities are requested but not required:

- GIS import/export capability
- Background image and maps support (Google Maps, Geo-aware module or similar)
- Long-term optimization/adding time component to steady-state analyses module
- Materials and equipment library

It is anticipated that up to five (5) additional TSOs in the region will join the Working Group in the near future. Proposals should include pricing information on the cost of additional licenses and M&S packages for one year. Due to the large volume of software packages offerors are requested to document an option for two (2) years M&S at discounted prices.

Training

The Vendor will also be required to provide two (2) joint one-week training workshops at locations in the region to be determined by USEA through December 2017 to build institutional capacity of the Working Group members to utilize the software to develop national network development models and to perform network analyses to suitably address the planning needs of the region.

The vendor will not be responsible for logistical costs. USEA, in cooperation with USAID, will fund the cost of travel, lodging, medivac insurance, and will provide a meals and incidental allowance consistent with USAID guidelines for vendor costs associated with the training programs.

The proposal should clearly outline the Vendor's training methodology including proposed curriculum, the use of training materials, in-class exercises, case studies, and homework assignments.

DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

The Vendor will adhere to the following project schedule:

Task	Action	Date
1	Provide Natural Gas Planning Software licenses and M&S packages to each of the seven (7) WG members	Electronic delivery due within two weeks upon receipt of payment from USEA
2	Prepare a Draft Training Agenda	Due two weeks prior to each workshop
3	Prepare training materials including Power Point Presentations, case studies and training exercises	Due two weeks prior to each workshop
4	Prepare Meeting Reports summarizing lessons learned and highlighting next steps	Due one week after each workshop

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following weighted scoring criteria:

- 35% -- Software Functionality
- 35% -- Proposed Training Plan
- 30% -- Price

TIMEFRAME:

All questions related to this RFP should be submitted via email to Albert Doub at Proposals@usea.org by close of business March 27, 2017. All questions and answers will be posted on the USEA website.

Interested parties are requested to submit final proposals no later than March 31, 2017. Proposals should be sent via email to Albert Doub at Proposals@usea.org in PDF format.