EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Title of Consulting Service: RTDF-03-Optical-NTA-2020

Method of Consulting Service: National

Project Name : Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify "Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3) in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project"

EOI : RTDF-03-Optical-NTA-2020

Office Name: Nepal Telecommunications Authority

Office Address: Kathmandu Kathmandu

Funding agency : Internal Resources

A. Request for Expression of Interest

Request for Expression of Interest

Government of Nepal (GoN)

Name of Employer: Nepal Telecommunications Authority

Date: 20-04-2020 00:00

Name of Project: Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify
"Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3) in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project"

1. Government of Nepal (GoN) has allocated fund toward the cost of Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify "Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3) in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project" and intend to apply portion of this fund to eligible payments under the Contract for which this Expression of Interest is invited for National consulting service
2. The Nepal Telecommunications Authority now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible consulting firms ("consultant") to provide the following consulting services: Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify "Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3) in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project"
3. Interested eligible consultants may obtain further information and EOI document free of cost at the address Nepal Telecommunications Authority,only electronic submission during office hours on or before 05-05-2020 12:30 or visit e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp or visit the client's website https://nta.gov.np/en/category/public-notice-en/
4. Consultants may associate with other consultants to enhance their qualifications.
5. Expressions of interest shall be delivered online through e-GP system www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp only electronic submission on or before 05-05-2020 12:30
6. In case the last date of obtaining and submission of the EOI documents happens to be a holiday, the next working day will be deemed as the due date but the time will be the same as stipulated.
7. EOI will be assessed based on Qualification 40.0 %, Experience 50.0 %, and Capacity 10.0 % of consulting firm and key personnel. Based on evaluation of EOI, only shortlisted firms will be invited to submit technical and financial proposal through a request for proposal.
8. Minimum score to pass the EOI is 60

B. Instructions for Submission of Expression of

Instructions for Submission of Expression of Interest

1. Expression of Interest may be submitted by a sole firm or a joint venture of consulting firms.
2. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (descriptions, organization and employee and of the firm or company, description of assignments of similar nature completed in the last 7 years and their location, experience in similar conditions, general qualifications and the key personnel to be involved in the proposed assignment).
3. This expression of interest is open to all eligible consulting firm/person/ company/ organization.
4. In case, the applicant is individual consultant, details of similar assignment experience, their location in the previous 4 years and audited balance sheet and bio data shall be considered for evaluation.
5. The assignment has been scheduled for a period of 2 yr. Expected date of commencement of the assignment is 10-10-2020.
6. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS method.
7. Expression of Interest should contain following information:

   (i) A covering letter addressed to the representative of the client on the official letter head of company duly signed by authorized signatory.

   (ii) Applicants shall provide the following information in the respective formats given in the EOI document:

   - EOI Form: Letter of Application (Form 1)
   - EOI Form: Applicant’s Information (Form 2)
   - EOI Form: Work Experience Details (Form 3(A), 3(B) & 3(C))
   - EOI Form: Capacity Details (Form 4)
   - EOI Form: Key Experts List (form 5).

8. Applicants may submit additional information with their application but shortlisting will be based on the evaluation of information requested and included in the formats provided in the EOI document.
9. The Expression of Interest (EOI) document must be duly completed and submitted in sealed envelope and should be clearly marked as “EOI Application for Short-listing for the Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify "Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3) in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project" .The Envelope should also clearly indicate the name and address of the Applicant. Alternatively, applicants can submit their EOI application through e-GP system by using the forms and instructions provided by the system.
10. The completed EOI document must be submitted on or before the date and address mentioned in the “Request for Expression of Interest”. In case the submission falls on public holiday the submission can be made on the next working day. Any EOI Document received after the closing time for submission of proposals shall not be considered for evaluation.

C. Objective of Consultancy Services or Brief TOR

Terms of Reference
for
Consultancy services to monitor, verify and certify "Optical Fiber Network Laying in Mid-Hill Transmission Network Project"

1. Background

Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) is an autonomous telecommunications regulatory body established in February 1998 pursuant to Telecommunications Act, 1997 and Telecommunications Regulation, 1998. There are six voice operators/licensees, 90 Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and 15 Network Service Providers (NSPs) licensed by the Authority. Among all the Operators, Nepal Doorsanchar Company Limited (Nepal Telecom), the incumbent, is operating nationwide and providing a full range of telecom services such as fixed line/PSTN, cellular mobile and Internet/Email services. Furthermore, Nepal Telecom is providing telecom services based on various technologies such as GSM, CDMA, WCDMA, LTE, WiMAX, ADSL etc. NCELL Pvt. Ltd. is another cellular mobile operator which has been providing cellular mobile service nationwide based on GSM, WCDMA and LTE. Smart Telecom Pvt. Ltd is a nationwide basic telephone operator operating mobile service based on GSM, and LTE. United Telecom Limited is providing basic telephone service including mobile service. Nepal Satellite Telecom Pvt. Ltd. is operating basic telecommunication service starting its service from the Mid-Western Development Region and expanding to Western and Far-Western Development Regions taking into special consideration of coverage in the un-served and underserved areas of rural and remote areas. C. G. Communications Pvt. Ltd. is operating V-SAT based services in rural areas including Eastern Development Region.

2. Introduction

NTA is collecting two percent of Gross Adjusted Revenue as a Rural Telecommunication Development Fund (RTDF) every year from the Service providers in telecommunications sector as per the Telecommunication Act, 2053. The RTDF is to be utilized through the existing Telecom Service Providers through competitive least subsidy basis. As per the policy of the government of Nepal, this amount is to be used for the development, expansion and operation of the Telecommunications Service in the rural and remote areas of the country where it is not commercially viable. NTA has been utilizing the RTDF fund to build and operate Information Superhighway through Mid-Hill Highway connecting every District Head Quarter through high capacity optical fiber network. Besides, NTA has been utilizing the RTDF fund to expand broadband service to all over the nation. The National Information Superhighway Highway is divided into three sections:

i. Midhill highway and districts under Province 1, 2 and 3
ii. Midhill highway and districts under Province 4 and 5
iii. Midhill highway and districts under Province 6 and 7

NTA has made an agreement with Nepal Doorsanchar Company Ltd(SLO) to build and operate "District Optical Fiber Network" falling under Province No. 1, Province No. 2 & Province No. 3 along Mid-hill Highway under the Rural Telecommunications Development Fund (RTDF) grant. Based on the agreement between NTA and SLO, SLO has divided the task into five different packages and made agreement with suppliers listed in Table 1 to undertake the assigned task.

Table 1: Description of task and Supplier

SN	Description	Scope	Supplier's Name	Date of Contract Signing	Intended completion Date
1	Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 1)	596KM	M/S LS Cable and System Ltd, Republic of Korea	3/22/2019	730 days from Signing Contract
2	Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 2)	1028KM	CRSC-CFEC-Aarogya JV Maharajunj-3 Kathmandu	3/14/2019	730 days from Signing Contract
3	Optical Fiber Network Laying (Package 3)	555KM	China Communication Services International Limited, Hongkong	3/12/2019	730 days from Signing Contract
4	High Capacity DWDM System for Mid-Hill Transmission Network	28 Nodes	M/S China Communication Services International	3/18/2019	Delivery,Installation,Testing, Commissioning, Configuration and request for Provisional Acceptance Test by supplier with in 210 Days from date of Contract sigining and 60 days from the date of PAT completion for Service Migration
5	Core Router Equipment for Mid-Hill Transmission Network	51 Nodes	M/S CITIUS COMMUNICATIONS LTD, Singapore	4/19/2019	270 Days from date of Contract sigining(Completion of Pre-test and request for Provisional Acceptance Test by supplier)

3. Objectives

Package A

The main objective of this assignment is to Monitor, Evaluate & Certify Supply, Delivery, Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network under 'Build and

Operate District Optical Fiber Network under RTDF Fund along Mid-Hill Highway(Package 1)'.

Package B

The main objective of this assignment is to Monitor, Evaluate & Certify Supply, Delivery, Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network under 'Build and Operate District Optical Fiber Network under RTDF Fund along Mid-Hill Highway(Package 2)'.

Package C

The main objective of this assignment is to Monitor, Evaluate & Certify Supply, Delivery, Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network under 'Build and Operate District Optical Fiber Network under RTDF Fund along Mid-Hill Highway(Package 3)'.

4. Scope of Work

The consultant shall establish a method to monitor, evaluate and certify the Supply, Delivery, Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network under 'Build and Operate District Optical Fiber Network under RTDF Fund along Mid-Hill Highway(Province 1,2&3)'. Along route of approximate 2179KM optical fiber is being laid in various routes of Province 1, 2 and 3. Supply, Delivery, Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network along Mid-Hill Highway(Province 1,2&3)' is being laid out in three Packages.

Optical Fiber Network(Package 1)	596KM(in different routes of province 1)
Optical Fiber Network(Package 2)	1028KM(in different routes of province 2)
Optical Fiber Network(Package 3)	555KM(in different routes of province 3)

A consultant will be assigned for each package
The consultant shall monitor, evaluate and certify Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network installed under 'Build and Operate District Optical Fiber Network under RTDF Fund along Mid-Hill Highway (Province 1, 2&3). In particular, for each package the consultant shall:
Phase I:

i. Design and upon approval from NTA, implement an audit and certification process that will facilitate NTA to verify the fiber(ADSS, UG), duct and accessories comply the specifications mentioned in annex I.
ii. Develop a process with design of format to monitor and evaluate the Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network.
iii. Establish a mechanism to report on the progress achieved by the SLO in meeting its obligation to NTA, so that NTA can take timely and appropriate action.

Phase II:

i. Monitor the Laying and Installation of optical fiber network and prepare monthly progress report.
ii. Test, Verify and Certify the Laying, Installation and Testing of Underground Optical Fiber Network and verify the obligation of the SLO.

Phase III:

i. Test, Verify and Certify the operation of the network and performance of overall Optical Fiber Network under the package including active equipment.
ii. Suggest any changes required for the smooth implementation of similar projects in future.

5. Qualifications

The Consultant is expected to be a firm or joint ventures and will be selected based on its experience and capacity in carrying out this type of work. Its knowledge of, and experience in the telecommunications sector, particularly in Optical Fiber network installation and testing, will be of most importance. The consultancy firm shall have a team comprises the following professionals/ experts with minimum qualification and Experience as indicated.

S.No	Designation	Minimum Educational Qualification and experience	Preference
	Key Experts(for each package)		
1.	Team Leader	• Engineering Bachelors Degree in Telecommunication or Electronics or Electronics & Communication or Computer or Information Technology or Information & Communication or equivalent with 10 years of experience in related field. • Should have at least one project experience of monitoring, verification and certification or deployment of Optical fiber networks.	
2	Fiber Network Expert- 2	• An engineering graduate with minimum of 5 years of experience in communication or network with through work experience and competence • Should have experience of installation, operation and monitoring and evaluation including quality/acceptance testing of optical fiber network.	Work Experience in Rural Areas
3	Telecommunication Engineer-6	An engineering graduate with minimum of 2 years of experience in communication/network.	Experience in Rural Areas
4	Overseer(Civil)-6	Diploma in civil engineering with minimum of 2 years of field experience	Experience road construction and fiber laying

* No personnel shall be changed except when he/she in unable to work due to illness or he/she dies.

6. Time Frame

Consultant should be available for at least three years as and when required.

7. Facilitation to the consultant

i. NTA will provide all the necessary concerned documents required to monitor the service as specified in Annex I.
ii. NTA will facilitate consultant and its authorized representatives to access various sites in connection with execution of project.
iii. NTA will provide all liaison support as required by the Consultant for carrying out its duties.

8. Deliverables

Based on the tasks described above, the consultants shall deliver the following:

i. Inception report: within 15 days from the signing of contract
ii. First Phase report: within 1 Month from issuing written request by NTA
iii. Monthly report: at the end of each month. (until the completion of optical fiber laying works under the package.)
iv. Second Phase report: within 1 Month from issuing written request by NTA
v. Third Phase report: within 1Month from issuing written request by NTA.

9. Payment schedule

S.N	Activities	Payment
1	Submission of Inception Report and upon its approval	**10%**
2	Submission of 1st Phase Report and upon its approval	**15%**
3	Submission of 2nd Phase Report and upon its approval	**45%**
4	Submission of 3rd Phase report and upon its approval	**30%**

10. Selection Process

Consultants will be selected on the basis of Quality and Cost based selection process.

D. Evaluation of Consultant’s EOI Application

Evaluation of Consultant's EOI Application

Consultant's EOI application which meets the eligibility criteria will be ranked on the basis of the Ranking Criteria.

i) Eligibility & Completeness Test

Sl. No.	Criteria Title	Compliance
1	Corporate Registration	
2	Tax Clearance for FY 2075/76	
3	VAT/PAN Registration	
4	EOI Form 1: Letter of Application	
5	EOI Form 2: Applicants Information Form	
6	EOI Form 3: Experience (3(A) and 3(B)) (Minimum two montitoring verification and certification of IT related projects)	
7	EOI Form 4: Capacity (Average Annual Turnover Minimum 6 Million)	
8	EOI Form 5: Qualification of Key Experts (Also attached CV of Key Experts in specified format)	

ii) EOI Evaluation Criteria

A. Qualification

Sl. No.	Criteria	Minimum Requirement
1	Qualification of Key Experts	As Per TOR
2	Experience of Key Experts	As per TOR

Score: 40.0

B. Experience

Sl. No.	Criteria	Minimum Requirement
1	General Experience of consulting firm	5 Year of Standing
2	Specific experience of consulting firm within last 7 years. In case of person, specific experience of the person within last 4 years.	2 Monitoring, Verification and certification project related to IT
3	Similar Geographical experience of consulting firm	

Score: 50.0

C. Capacity

Sl. No.	Criteria	Minimum Requirement
1	Financial Capacity.[Average turnover required shall not exceed 150% of cost estimate]	

Score: 10.0

Minimum score to pass the EOI is: 60

Note : In Case, a corruption case is being filed to Court against the Natural Person or Board of Director of the firm/institution /company or any partner of JV, such Natural Person or Board of Director of the firm/institution /company or any partner of JV such firm's or JV EoI shall be excluded from the evaluation, if public entity receives instruction from Government of Nepal.

E. EOI Forms & Formats

E. EOI Forms & Formats

Form 1. Letter of Application

Form 2. Applicant’s information

Form 3.Experience *(General, Specific and Geographical)*

Form 4. Capacity

Form 5. Qualification of Key Experts

1. Letter of Application

(Letterhead paper of the Applicant or partner responsible for a joint venture, including full postal address, telephone no., fax and email address)

Date: .....

To,

Full Name of Client: _____

Full Address of Client: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Fax No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Sir/Madam,

1. Being duly authorized to represent and act on behalf of (hereinafter "the Applicant"), and having reviewed and fully understood all the short-listing information provided, the undersigned hereby apply to be short-listed by ***[Insert name** of Client)* as Consultant for ***{Insert brief description** of Work/Services}.*

2. Attached to this letter are photocopies of original documents defining:

    a) the Applicant's legal status;

    b) the principal place of business;

3. ***[Insert name of Client]*** and its authorized representatives are hereby authorized to verify the statements, documents, and information submitted in connection with this application. This Letter of Application will also serve as authorization to any individual or authorized representative of any institution referred to in the supporting information, to provide such information deemed necessary and requested by yourselves to verify statements and information provided in this application, or with regard to the resources, experience, and competence of the Applicant.

4. ***[Insert name** of Client)* and its authorized representatives are authorized to contact any of the signatories to this letter for any further information.[1]

5. All further communication concerning this Application should be addressed to the following person,

    [Person]

    [Company]

    [Address]

    [Phone, Fax, Email]

6. We declare that, we have no conflict of interest in the proposed procurement proceedings and we have not been punished for an offense relating to the concerned profession or

[1] Applications by joint ventures should provide on a separate sheet, relevant information for each party to the Application.

business and our Company/firm has not been declared ineligible.

7. We further confirm that, if any of our experts is engaged to prepare the TOR for any ensuing assignment resulting from our work product under this assignment, our firm, JV member or sub-consultant, and the expert(s) will be disqualified from short-listing and participation in the assignment.

8. The undersigned declares that the statements made and the information provided in the duly completed application are complete, true and correct in every detail.

Signed **:**

Name **:**

For and on behalf of (name of Applicant or partner of a joint venture):

2. Applicant's Information Form

(In case of joint venture of two or more firms to be filled separately for each constituent member)

1. Name of Firm/Company:

2. Type of Constitution (*Partnership/ Pvt. Ltd/Public Ltd/ Public Sector/ NGO)*

3. Date of Registration / Commencement of Business *(Please specify):*

4. Country of Registration:

5. Registered Office/Place of Business:

6. Telephone No; Fax No; E-Mail Address

7. Name of Authorized Contact Person / Designation/ Address/Telephone:

8. Name of Authorized Local Agent /Address/Telephone:

9. Consultant's Organization:

10. Total number of staff:

11. Number of regular professional staff:

(Provide Company Profile with description of the background and organization of the Consultant and, if applicable, for each joint venture partner for this assignment.)

3. Experience

3(A). General Work Experience

(Details of assignments undertaken. Each consultant or member of a JV must fill in this form.)

S. N.	Name of assignment	Location	Value of Contract	Year Completed	Client	Description of work carried *out*
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
6.						
7.						

3(B). Specific Experience

Details of similar assignments undertaken in the previous seven years
(In case of joint venture of two or more firms to be filled separately for each constituent member)

Assignment name:	Approx. value of the contract (in current NRs; US$ or Euro)[2]:
Country: Location within country:	Duration of assignment (months):
Name of Client:	Total No. of person-months of the assignment:
Address:	Approx. value of the services provided by your firm under the contract (in current NRs; US$ or Euro):
Start date (month/year): Completion date (month/year):	No. of professional person-months provided by the joint venture partners or the Sub-Consultants:
Name of joint venture partner or sub-Consultants, if any:	Narrative description of Project:
Description of actual services provided in the assignment: **Note: Provide highlight on similar services provided by the consultant as required by the EOI assignment.**	

Firm's Name: _____

[2] Consultant should state value in the currency as mentioned in the contract

3(C). Geographic Experience

Experience of working in similar geographic region or country

(In case of joint venture of two or more firms to be filled separately for each constituent member)

No	***Name of the Project***	***Location (Country/ Region)***	***Execution Year and Duration***
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			

4. Capacity

4(A). Financial Capacity

(In case of joint venture of two or more firms to be filled separately for each constituent member)

Annual Turnover	
Year	**Amount Currency**

- **Average Annual Turnover**

(Note: Supporting documents for Average Turnover should be submitted for the above.)

4(B). Infrastructure/equipment related to the proposed assignment[3]

No	Infrastructure/equipment Required	Requirements Description
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

[3] *Delete this table if infrastructure/equipment for the proposed assignment is not required.*

5. Key Experts *(Include details of Key Experts only)*

(In case of joint venture of two or more firms to be filled separately for each constituent member)

SN	Name	Position	Highest Qualification	Work Experience (in year)	Specific Work Experience (in year)	Nationality
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

(Please insert more rows as necessary)

FORM TECH-7

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)

Position Title and No.	{e.g., K-1, TEAM LEADER}
Name of Firm	*Insert name of firm proposing the expert*
Name of Expert:	{Insert full name}
Date of Birth:	{day/month/year}
Citizenship	

Education: {List college/university or other specialized education, giving names of educational institutions, dates attended, degree(s)/diploma(s) obtained}

_____

_____

Employment record relevant to the assignment: {Starting with present position, list in reverse order. Please provide dates, name of employing organization, titles of positions held,*type of employment (full time, part time, contractual),*types of activities performed and location of the assignment, and contact information of previous clients and employing organization(s) who can be contacted for references. Past employment that is not relevant to the assignment does not need to be included.}

Period	**Employing organization and your title/position. Contact information for references**	**Country**	**Summary of activities performed relevant to the Assignment**
[e.g., May 2005-present]	[e.g., Ministry of ……, advisor/consultant to… For references: Tel……/e-mail……; Mr. Bbbbbb, deputy minister]		

Membership in Professional Associations and Publications:

_____

Language Skills (indicate only languages in which you can work): _____

_____

Adequacy for the Assignment:

Detailed Tasks Assigned on Consultant's Team of Experts:	**Reference to Prior Work/Assignments that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Assigned Tasks**
{List all deliverables/tasks as in TECH- 5 in which the Expert will be involved)	

Expert's contact information: (e-mail……., phone……)

Certification:

I, the undersigned, certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that

(i) This CV correctly describes my qualifications and experience

(ii) I am not a current employee of the GoN

(iii) In the absence of medical incapacity, I will undertake this assignment for the duration and in terms of the inputs specified for me in Form TECH 6 provided team mobilization takes place within the validity of this proposal.

(iv) I was not part of the team who wrote the terms of reference for this consulting services assignment

(v) I am not currently debarred by a multilateral development bank (In case of DP funded project]

(vi) I certify that I have been informed by the firm that it is including my CV in the Proposal for the {name of project and contract}. I confirm that I will be available to carry out the assignment for which my CV has been submitted in accordance with the implementation arrangements and schedule set out in the Proposal.

(vii) I declare that Corruption Case is not filed against me.

I understand that any willful misstatement described herein may lead to my disqualification or dismissal, if engaged.

_____ Date: _____

[Signature of expert] *Day/Month/Year*

_____ Date: _____

[Signature of authorized representative of the firm] *Day/Month/Year*

Full name of authorized representative:

_____