

Section 1 - Instructions to Bidders

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Section 1 - Instructions to Bidders

A. General

- 1. Scope of Bid**
- 1.1 In connection with the Invitation for Bids (IFB) indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS), the Employer, as indicated in the BDS, issues this Bidding Document for the procurement of plant and services as specified in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). The name, identification, and number of lot/s (contract/s) of the international competitive bidding (ICB) are provided in the BDS.
- 1.2 Unless otherwise stated, throughout this Bidding Document definitions and interpretations shall be as prescribed in Section 7 (General Conditions of Contract) (GCC)).
- 2. Source of Funds**
- 2.1 The Borrower or Recipient (hereinafter called "Borrower") indicated in the BDS has applied for or received financing (hereinafter called "funds") from the Asian Development Bank (hereinafter called "ADB") toward the cost of the project named in the BDS. The Borrower intends to apply a portion of the funds to eligible payments under the contract(s) for which this Bidding Document is issued.
- 2.2 Payments by ADB will be made only at the request of the Borrower and upon approval by ADB in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Financing Agreement between the Borrower and ADB (hereinafter called "Financing Agreement"), and will be subject in all respects to the terms and conditions of that Financing Agreement. No party other than the Borrower shall derive any rights from the Financing Agreement or have any claim to the funds.
- 3. Fraud and Corruption**
- 3.1 ADB's Anticorruption Policy requires Borrowers (including beneficiaries of ADB-financed activity), as well as Bidders, Suppliers, and Contractors under ADB-financed contracts, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, ADB
- (a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
- (i) "corrupt practice" means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (ii) "fraudulent practice" means any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
 - (iii) "coercive practice" means impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
 - (iv) "collusive practice" means an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including influencing improperly the actions of another party;

- (v) "obstructive practice" means (a) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering, or concealing of evidence material to an ADB investigation; (b) making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede an ADB investigation; (c) failing to comply with requests to provide information, documents, or records in connection with an Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI) investigation; (d) threatening, harassing, or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or (e) materially impeding ADB's contractual rights of audit or access to information; and
- (vi) "integrity violation" is any act which violates ADB's Anticorruption Policy, including (i) to (v) above and the following: abuse, conflict of interest, violations of ADB sanctions, retaliation against whistleblowers or witnesses, and other violations of ADB's Anticorruption Policy, including failure to adhere to the highest ethical standard.

- (b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations in competing for the Contract;
- (c) will cancel the portion of the financing allocated to a contract if it determines at any time that representatives of the Borrower or of a beneficiary of ADB-financing engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations during the procurement or the execution of that contract, without the Borrower having taken timely and appropriate action satisfactory to ADB to remedy the situation;
- (d) will impose remedial actions on a firm or an individual, at any time, in accordance with ADB's Anticorruption Policy and Integrity Principles and Guidelines (both as amended from time to time), including declaring ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to participate¹ in ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported activities or to benefit from an ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported contract, financially or otherwise, if it at any time determines that the firm or individual has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices, or other integrity violations; and
- (e) will have the right to require that a provision be included in the Bidding Documents and in contracts financed by ADB, requiring Bidders, suppliers and contractors to permit ADB or its representative to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to the bid submission and contract performance and to have them audited by auditors appointed by ADB.

3.2 Furthermore, Bidders shall be aware of the provision stated in GCC 9.6 and GCC 42.2.1 (c).

4. Eligible Bidders

4.1 A Bidder may be a natural person, private entity, or government-owned enterprise subject to ITB 4.5 - or any combination of them with a formal

¹ Whether as a Contractor, Subcontractor, Consultant, Manufacturer or Supplier, or Service Provider; or in any other capacity (different names are used depending on the particular Bidding Document).

intent to enter into an agreement or under an existing agreement in the form of a Joint Venture. In the case of a Joint Venture,

- (a) all partners shall be jointly and severally liable; and
- (b) the Joint Venture shall nominate a Representative who shall have the authority to conduct all business for and on behalf of any and all the partners of the Joint Venture during the bidding process and, in the event the Joint Venture is awarded the Contract, during contract execution.

4.2 A Bidder, and all partners constituting the Bidder, shall have the nationality of an eligible country, in accordance with Section 5 (Eligible Countries). A Bidder shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Bidder is a citizen or is constituted, incorporated, or registered, and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country. This criterion shall also apply to the determination of the nationality of proposed subcontractors or suppliers for any part of the Contract, including related services.

4.3 A Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest. All Bidders found to have a conflict of interest shall be disqualified. A Bidder may be considered to be in a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this bidding process if any of, including but not limited to, the following apply:

- (a) they have controlling shareholders in common; or
- (b) they receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from any of them; or
- (c) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this bid; or
- (d) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to material information about or improperly influence the bid of another Bidder, or influence the decisions of the Employer regarding this bidding process; or
- (e) a Bidder participates in more than one bid in this bidding process, either individually or as a partner in a joint venture, except for alternative offers permitted under ITB 13. This will result in the disqualification of all Bids in which it is involved. However, subject to any finding of a conflict of interest in terms of ITB 4.3 (a) - (d) above, this does not limit the participation of a Bidder as a subcontractor in another Bid or of a firm as a subcontractor in more than one Bid; or
- (f) a Bidder or any affiliated entity, participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the plant and services that are the subject of the Bid; or
- (g) a Bidder was affiliated with a firm or entity that has been hired (or is proposed to be hired) by the Employer or Borrower as Project Manager for the Contract.

4.4 A firm shall not be eligible to participate in any procurement activities under an ADB-financed, -administered, or -supported project while under temporary suspension or debarment by ADB pursuant to its Anticorruption Policy (see ITB 3), whether such debarment was directly imposed by ADB, or enforced by ADB pursuant to the Agreement for Mutual Enforcement of Debarment Decisions. A bid from a temporary

suspended or debarred firm will be rejected.

- 4.5 Government-owned enterprises in the Borrower's country shall be eligible only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not dependent agencies of the Employer.
- 4.6 Bidders shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Employer, as the Employer shall reasonably request.
- 4.7 Firms shall be excluded if by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Borrower's country prohibits any import of goods or contracting of works or services from that country or any payments to persons or entities in that country.
- 4.8 In case a prequalification process has been conducted prior to the bidding process, this bidding is open only to prequalified Bidders.

5. Eligible Plant and Services

- 5.1 The plant and services to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin in eligible source countries as defined in ITB 4.2 and all expenditures under the Contract will be limited to such plant and services.
- 5.2 For purposes of ITB 5.1 above, "origin" means the place where the plant, or component parts thereof are mined, grown, produced, or manufactured, and from which the services are provided. Plant components are produced when, through manufacturing, processing, or substantial or major assembling of components, a commercially recognized product results that is substantially in its basic characteristics or in purpose or utility from its components.

B. Contents of Bidding Document

6. Sections of Bidding Document

- 6.1 The Bidding Document consists of Parts I, II, and III, which include all the sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any addenda issued in accordance with ITB 8.

PART I Bidding Procedures

- Section 1 - Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
- Section 2 - Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
- Section 3 - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria (EQC)
- Section 4 - Bidding Forms (BDF)
- Section 5 - Eligible Countries (ELC)

PART II Requirements

- Section 6 - Employer's Requirements (ERQ)

PART III Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms

- Section 7 - General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
- Section 8 - Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)
- Section 9 - Contract Forms (COF)

- 6.2 The IFB issued by the Employer is not part of the Bidding Document.
- 6.3 The Employer is not responsible for the completeness of the Bidding Document and its addenda, if they were not obtained directly from the source stated by the Employer in the IFB.

- 6.4 The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Document. Failure to furnish all information or documentation required by the Bidding Document may result in the rejection of the Bid.
- 7. Clarification of Bidding Document, Site Visit, Pre-Bid Meeting**
- 7.1 A prospective Bidder requiring any clarification on the Bidding Document shall contact the Employer in writing at the Employer's address indicated in the BDS, or raise his enquiries during the pre-bid meeting if provided for in accordance with ITB 7.4. The Employer will respond to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received no later than 21 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids. The Employer's response shall be in writing with copies to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3, including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Employer deem it necessary to amend the Bidding Document as a result of a request for clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under ITB 8 and ITB 24.2.
- 7.2 The Bidder is advised to visit and examine the site where the plant is to be installed and its surroundings and obtain for itself on its own responsibility all information that may be necessary for preparing the Bid and entering into a contract for the provision of plant and services. The costs of visiting the site shall be at the Bidder's own expense.
- 7.3 The Bidder and any of its personnel or agents will be granted permission by the Employer to enter its premises and lands for the purpose of such visit, but only upon the express condition that the Bidder, its personnel, and agents, will release and indemnify the Employer and its personnel and agents from and against all liability in respect thereof, and will be responsible for death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property, and any other loss, damage, costs, and expenses incurred as a result of the inspection.
- 7.4 The Bidder's designated representative is invited to attend a pre-bid meeting, if provided for in the BDS. The purpose of the meeting will be to clarify issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage.
- 7.5 The Bidder is requested to submit any questions in writing, to reach the Employer not later than 1 week before the pre-bid meeting.
- 7.6 Minutes of the pre-bid meeting, including the text of the questions raised, without identifying the source, and the responses given, together with any responses prepared after the meeting, will be transmitted promptly to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3. Any modification to the Bidding Document that may become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting shall be made by the Employer exclusively through the issue of an addendum pursuant to ITB 8 and not through the minutes of the pre-bid meeting.
- 7.7 Nonattendance at the pre-bid meeting will not be a cause for disqualification of a Bidder.
- 8. Amendment of**
- 8.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Bids, the Employer

Bidding Document

may amend the Bidding Document by issuing addenda.

- 8.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Bidding Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the Bidding Document from the Employer in accordance with ITB 6.3.
- 8.3 To give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their Bids, the Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Bids, pursuant to ITB 24.2

C. Preparation of Bids

- 9. Cost of Bidding** 9.1 The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Bid, and the Employer shall in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- 10. Language of Bid** 10.1 The Bid, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the bid exchanged by the Bidder and the Employer, shall be written in the English language. Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Bid may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages into the English language, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Bid, such translation shall govern.
- 11. Documents Comprising the Bid** 11.1 The Bid submitted by the Bidder shall comprise the following:
- (a) Letter of Bid;
 - (b) completed schedules as required, including Price Schedules, in accordance with ITB 12 and ITB 18;
 - (c) Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, in accordance with ITB 21;
 - (d) alternative Bids, if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13;
 - (e) written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 22.2;
 - (f) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 14.1, that the plant and services offered by the Bidder in its Bid or in any alternative bid, if permitted, are eligible;
 - (g) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 15, the Bidder's eligibility and qualifications to perform the contract if its Bid is accepted;
 - (h) Technical Proposal in accordance with ITB 17.
 - (i) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 16, that the plant and services offered by the Bidder conform to the Bidding Document;
 - (j) list of subcontractors, in accordance with ITB 17.2; and
 - (k) any other document required in the BDS.
- 11.2 In addition to the requirements under ITB 11.1, Bids submitted by a Joint Venture shall include a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement entered into by all partners. Alternatively, a Letter of Intent to execute a Joint Venture Agreement in the event of a successful Bid shall be signed by all partners

- and submitted with the Bid, together with a copy of the proposed agreement.
- 12. Letter of Bid and Schedules** 12.1 The Bidder shall complete the Letter of Bid, including the appropriate Price Schedules, using the relevant forms furnished in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The forms must be completed as instructed in each form and as required in the BDS.
- 13. Alternative Bids** 13.1 The BDS indicates whether alternative Bids are allowed. If they are allowed, the BDS will also indicate whether they are permitted in accordance with ITB 13.3, or invited in accordance with ITB13.2 and/or ITB 13.4.
- 13.2 When alternatives to the Time Schedule are explicitly invited, a statement to that effect will be included in the BDS, and the method of evaluating different time schedules will be described in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 13.3 Except as provided under ITB 13.4 below, Bidders wishing to offer technical alternatives to the Employer's requirements as described in the Bidding Document must also provide (i) a price at which they are prepared to offer a plant meeting the Employer's requirements; and (ii) all information necessary for a complete evaluation of the alternatives by the Employer, including drawings, design calculations, technical specifications, breakdown of prices, and proposed installation methodology and other relevant details. Only the technical alternatives, if any, of the lowest evaluated Bidder conforming to the basic technical requirements shall be considered by the Employer.
- 13.4 When Bidders are invited in the BDS to submit alternative technical solutions for specified parts of the facilities, such parts shall be described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). Technical alternatives for the specific parts of the facilities that comply with the performance and technical criteria specified for the plant and services shall be considered by the Employer on their own merits, pursuant to ITB 36.
- 14. Documents Establishing the Eligibility of Plant and Services** 14.1 To establish the eligibility of the plant and services in accordance with ITB 5, Bidders shall complete the country of origin declarations in the Price Schedule Forms, included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).
- 15. Documents Establishing the Eligibility and Qualifications of the Bidder** 15.1 To establish its eligibility and qualifications to perform the Contract in accordance with Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), the Bidder shall provide the information requested in the corresponding information sheets included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).
- 15.2 Domestic Bidders, individually or in joint ventures, applying for eligibility for domestic preference shall supply all information required to satisfy the criteria for eligibility as described in ITB 35.
- 16. Documents Establishing Conformity of the Plant and Services** 16.1 The documentary evidence of the conformity of the plant and services to the Bidding Document may be in the form of literature, drawings, and data, and shall furnish:
- (a) a detailed description of the essential technical and performance characteristics of the plant and services, including the functional

guarantees of the proposed plant and services, in response to the specification;

- (b) a list giving full particulars, including available sources, of all spare parts and special tools necessary for the proper and continuing functioning of the plant for the period named in the BDS, following completion of plant and services in accordance with provisions of the contract; and
- (c) a commentary on the Employer's Specifications and adequate evidence demonstrating the substantial responsiveness of the plant and services to those specifications. Bidders shall note that standards for workmanship, materials, and equipment designated by the Employer in the Bidding Document are intended to be descriptive (establishing standards of quality and performance) only and not restrictive. The Bidder may substitute alternative standards, brand names, and/or catalog numbers in its Bid, provided that it demonstrates to the Employer's satisfaction that the substitutions are substantially equivalent or superior to the standards designated in the Specifications.

17. Technical Proposal, Subcontractors

- 17.1 The Bidder shall furnish a Technical Proposal including a statement of work methods, equipment, personnel, schedule, and any other information as stipulated in Section 4 (Bidding Forms), in sufficient detail to demonstrate the adequacy of the Bidders' proposal to meet the work requirements and the completion time.
- 17.2 For major items of plant and services as listed by the Employer in Criterion 2.5 of Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), which the Bidder intends to purchase or subcontract, the Bidder shall give details of the name and nationality of the proposed Subcontractors, including Manufacturers, for each of those items. In addition, the Bidder shall include in its Bid information establishing compliance with the requirements specified by the Employer for these items. Bidders are free to list more than one Subcontractor against each item of the plant and services. Quoted rates and prices will be deemed to apply to whichever Subcontractor is appointed, and no adjustment of the rates and prices will be permitted.
- 17.3 The Bidder shall be responsible for ensuring that any Subcontractor proposed complies with the requirements of ITB 4, and that any plant, or services to be provided by the Subcontractor comply with the requirements of ITB 5 and ITB 15.1

18. Bid Prices and Discounts

- 18.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS and/or Section 6 (Employer's Requirements), Bidders shall quote for the entire plant and services on a "single responsibility" basis such that the total Bid price covers all the Contractor's obligations mentioned in or to be reasonably inferred from the Bidding Document in respect of the design, manufacture, including procurement and subcontracting (if any), delivery, construction, installation, and completion of the plant. This includes all requirements under the Contractor's responsibilities for testing, pre-commissioning and commissioning of the plant and, where so required by the Bidding Document, the acquisition of all permits, approvals, and licenses, etc.; the operation, maintenance, and training services and such other items and services as may be specified in the Bidding Document, all in accordance with the requirements of the General Conditions. Items against which no price is entered by the Bidder will not be paid for by the Employer when

executed and shall be deemed to be covered by the prices for other items.

18.2 Bidders are required to quote the price for the commercial, contractual, and technical obligations outlined in the Bidding Document.

18.3 Bidders shall give a breakdown of the prices in the manner and detail called for in the Price Schedules included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). Where no different Price Schedules are included in the Bidding Document, Bidders shall present their prices in the following manner: Separate numbered Schedules included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) shall be used for each of the following elements. The total amount from each Schedule (Nos. 1 to 4) shall be summarized in a Grand Summary (Schedule No. 5) giving the total bid price(s) to be entered in the Letter of Bid. Absence of the total bid price in the Letter of Bid may result in the rejection of the Bid.

Schedule No. 1: Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts Supplied from Abroad

Schedule No. 2: Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts Supplied from Within the Employer's Country

Schedule No. 3: Design Services

Schedule No. 4: Installation and Other Services

Schedule No. 5: Grand Summary (Schedule Nos. 1 to 4)

Schedule No. 6: Recommended Spare Parts

Bidders shall note that the plant and mandatory spare parts included in Schedule Nos. 1 and 2 above exclude materials used for civil, building, and other construction works. All such materials shall be included and priced under Schedule No. 4, Installation and Other Services.

18.4 In the Schedules, Bidders shall give the required details and a breakdown of their prices as follows:

(a) Plant to be Supplied from Abroad (Schedule No. 1):

- (i) the price of the plant shall be quoted carriage and insurance paid (CIP)-named place of destination basis specified in the BDS;
- (ii) all customs duties and other taxes paid or payable in the Employer's country on the plant if the contract is awarded to the Bidder; and
- (iii) the total price for the plant

(b) Plant Supplied from Within the Employer's Country (Schedule No. 2):

- (i) the price of the plant shall be quoted on an EXW Incoterm basis (ex works, ex factory, ex warehouse, ex showroom, as applicable), including all customs duties and sales and other taxes already paid or payable on the components and raw material used in the manufacture or assembly of plant quoted ex works or ex factory, or on the previously imported plant of foreign origin quoted ex warehouse, ex showroom;
- (ii) sales tax and other taxes payable in the Employer's country on the plant if the contract is awarded to the Bidder; and

- (iii) the total price for the plant.
 - (c) Design Services. (Schedule No. 3). Rates or prices shall include all taxes, duties, levies, and charges payable in the Employer's country as of 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of Bids.
 - (d) Installation and Other Services (Schedule No. 4) shall be quoted separately and shall include rates or prices for local transportation, insurance, and other services incidental to delivery of the plant, all labor, contractor's equipment, temporary works, materials, consumables, and all matters and things of whatsoever nature, including operations and maintenance services, the provision of operations and maintenance manuals, training, etc., where identified in the Bidding Document, as necessary for the proper execution of the installation and other services, including all taxes, duties, levies and charges payable in the Employer's country as of 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.
 - (e) Recommended spare parts (Schedule No. 6) shall be quoted separately as specified in either subparagraph (a) or (b) above in accordance with the origin of the spare parts.
- 18.5 The current edition of Incoterms, published by the International Chamber of Commerce shall govern.
- 18.6 The prices shall be either fixed or adjustable as specified in the BDS.
- (a) In the case of Fixed Price, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed during the Bidder's performance of the contract and not subject to variation on any account. A Bid submitted with an adjustable price quotation will be treated as nonresponsive and rejected.
 - (b) In the case of Adjustable Price, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be subject to adjustment during performance of the contract to reflect changes in the cost elements such as labor, material, transport and contractor's equipment in accordance with the procedures specified in the corresponding appendix to the Contract Agreement. A Bid submitted with a fixed price quotation will not be rejected, but the price adjustment will be treated as zero. Bidders are required to indicate the source of labor and material indexes in the corresponding Form in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).
- 18.7 If so indicated in BDS 1.1, Bids are being invited for individual lots (contracts) or for any combination of lots (packages). Bidders wishing to offer any price reduction (discount) for the award of more than one contract shall specify in their Letter of Bid the price reductions applicable to each package, or alternatively, to individual contracts within the package, and the manner in which the price reductions will apply.
- 19. Currencies of Bid and Payment**
- 19.1 The currency(ies) of the bid shall be, as specified in the BDS.
 - 19.2 Bidders may be required by the Employer to justify, to the Employer's satisfaction, their local and foreign currency requirements.
- 20. Period of Validity of Bids**
- 20.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS after the bid submission deadline date prescribed by the Employer. A bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.

- 20.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the bid validity period, the Employer may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their Bids. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. If a bid security is requested in accordance with ITB 21, it shall also be extended 28 days beyond the deadline of the extended bid validity period. A Bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting its bid security. A Bidder granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its Bid.
- 21. Bid Security/Bid Securing Declaration**
- 21.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, in original form, either a Bid-Securing Declaration or a bid security as specified in the BDS. In the case of a bid security, the amount and currency shall be as specified in the BDS.
- 21.2 If a Bid-Securing Declaration is required pursuant to ITB 21.1, it shall use the form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The Employer will declare a Bidder ineligible to be awarded a Contract for a specified period of time, as indicated in the BDS, if a Bid-Securing Declaration is executed.
- 21.3 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, bid security shall be, at the Bidder's option, in any of the following forms:
- (a) an unconditional bank guarantee,
 - (b) an irrevocable letter of credit, or
 - (c) a cashier's or certified check.
- all from a reputable source from an eligible country as described in Section 5 (Eligible Countries). In the case of a bank guarantee, the bid security shall be submitted using either the Bid Security Form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) or another form acceptable to the Employer. The form must include the complete name of the Bidder. The bid security shall be valid for 28 days beyond the original validity period of the Bid, or beyond any period of extension if requested under ITB 20.2.
- 21.4 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, any Bid not accompanied by a substantially compliant bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if one is required in accordance with ITB 21.1, shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.
- 21.5 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, the bid security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned as promptly as possible upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the performance security pursuant to ITB 43.
- 21.6 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 21.1, the bid security of the successful Bidder shall be returned as promptly as possible once the successful Bidder has signed the Contract and furnished the required performance security.
- 21.7 The bid security may be forfeited or the Bid-Securing Declaration executed:
- (a) if a Bidder withdraws its Bid during the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Letter of Bid, except as provided in ITB 20.2, or
 - (b) if the successful Bidder fails to

- (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITB 42, or
- (ii) furnish a performance security in accordance with ITB 43, or
- (iii) accept the arithmetical corrections of its Bid in accordance with ITB 33.

21.8 The bid security or the Bid-Securing Declaration of a Joint Venture shall be in the name of the Joint Venture that submits the bid. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the bid security or the Bid-Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent referred to in ITB 4.1.

22. Format and Signing of Bid

22.1 The Bidder shall prepare one original set of the documents comprising the Bid as described in ITB 11 and clearly mark it "ORIGINAL." Alternative Bids, if permitted in accordance with ITB 13, shall be clearly marked "ALTERNATIVE". In addition, the Bidder shall submit copies of the Bid, in the number specified in the BDS and clearly mark them "COPY." In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.

22.2 The original and all copies of the Bid shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the Bidder. This authorization shall consist of a written confirmation as specified in the BDS and shall be attached to the Bid. The name and position held by each person signing the authorization must be typed or printed below the signature. All pages of the bid, except for unamended printed literature, shall be signed or initialed by the person signing the Bid. If a Bidder submits a deficient authorization, the Bid shall not be rejected in the first instance. The Employer shall request the Bidder to submit an acceptable authorization within the number of days as specified in the BDS. Failure to provide an acceptable authorization within the prescribed period of receiving such a request shall cause the rejection of the Bid.

22.3 A Bid submitted by a Joint Venture shall be signed so as to be legally binding on all partners.

22.4 Any amendments such as interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the Bid.

D. Submission and Opening of Bids

23. Submission, Sealing and Marking of Bids

23.1 Bidders may always submit their Bids by mail or by hand. When so specified in the BDS, Bidders shall have the option of submitting their Bids electronically. Procedures for submission, sealing and marking are as follows:

- (a) Bidders submitting Bids by mail or by hand shall enclose the original and each copy of the Bid, including alternative Bids, if permitted in accordance with ITB 13, in separate sealed envelopes, duly marking the envelopes as "ORIGINAL", "ALTERNATIVE," and "COPY." These envelopes containing the original and the copies shall then be enclosed in one single envelope. The rest of the procedure shall be in accordance with ITB 23.2 and ITB 23.3.
- (b) Bidders submitting Bids electronically shall follow the electronic bid submission procedures specified in the BDS.

- 23.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall
- (a) bear the name and address of the Bidder,
 - (b) be addressed to the Employer in accordance with ITB 24.1,
 - (c) bear the specific identification of this bidding process indicated in the BDS 1.1, and
 - (d) bear a warning not to open before the time and date for bid opening.
- 23.3 If all envelopes are not sealed and marked as required, the Employer will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the Bid.
- 24. Deadline for Submission of Bids**
- 24.1 Bids must be received by the Employer at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the BDS.
- 24.2 The Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids by amending the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 8, in which case all rights and obligations of the Employer and Bidders previously subject to the deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.
- 25. Late Bids**
- 25.1 The Employer shall not consider any Bid that arrives after the deadline for submission of Bids, in accordance with ITB 24. Any Bid received by the Employer after the deadline for submission of Bids shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.
- 26. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids**
- 26.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify its Bid after it has been submitted by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization in accordance with ITB 22.2, (except that withdrawal notices do not require copies). The corresponding substitution or modification of the Bid must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be:
- (a) prepared and submitted in accordance with ITB 22 and ITB 23 (except that withdrawal notices do not require copies), and in addition, the respective envelopes shall be clearly marked "WITHDRAWAL," "SUBSTITUTION," "MODIFICATION;" and
 - (b) received by the Employer prior to the deadline prescribed for submission of Bids, in accordance with ITB 24.
- 26.2 Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITB 26.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders.
- 26.3 No Bid may be withdrawn, substituted, or modified in the interval between the deadline for submission of Bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Letter of Bid or any extension thereof.
- 27. Bid Opening**
- 27.1 The Employer shall open the Bids in public at the address, on the date, and time specified in the BDS in the presence of Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend. Any specific electronic bid opening procedures required if electronic bidding is permitted in accordance with ITB 23.1, shall be as specified in the BDS.

- 27.2 First, envelopes marked "WITHDRAWAL" shall be opened and read out and the envelope with the corresponding Bid shall not be opened, but returned to the Bidder. No bid withdrawal shall be permitted unless the corresponding withdrawal notice contains a valid authorization to request the withdrawal and is read out at bid opening. Next, envelopes marked "SUBSTITUTION" shall be opened and read out and exchanged with the corresponding Bid being substituted, and the substituted Bid shall not be opened, but returned to the Bidder. No bid substitution shall be permitted unless the corresponding substitution notice contains a valid authorization to request the substitution and is read out at bid opening. Envelopes marked "MODIFICATION" shall be opened and read out with the corresponding Bid. No bid modification shall be permitted unless the corresponding modification notice contains a valid authorization to request the modification and is read out at bid opening. Only envelopes that are opened and read out at bid opening shall be considered further.
- 27.3 All other envelopes shall be opened one at a time, reading out the name of the Bidder and whether there is a modification; the Bid Price(s), including any discounts and alternative Bids; the presence of a bid security, or a Bid-Securing Declaration, if required; and any other details as the Employer may consider appropriate. Only discounts and alternative Bids read out at bid opening shall be considered for evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all pages of the Letter of Bid and Price Schedules are to be initialed by at least three representatives of the Employer attending the bid opening. No Bid shall be rejected at bid opening except for late Bids, in accordance with ITB 25.1.
- 27.4 The Employer shall prepare a record of the bid opening that shall include, as a minimum: the name of the Bidder and whether there is a withdrawal, substitution, or modification; the Bid Price, per lot if applicable, including any discounts and alternative Bids; and the presence or absence of a bid security or a Bid-Securing Declaration, if one was required. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Bidder's signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Bidders who submitted Bids on time, and posted online when electronic bidding is permitted.

E. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

- 28. Confidentiality**
- 28.1 Information relating to the evaluation of Bids and recommendation of contract award shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until information on the Contract award is communicated to all Bidders.
- 28.2 Any attempt by a Bidder to influence the Employer in the evaluation of the Bids or Contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its Bid.
- 28.3 Notwithstanding ITB 28.2, from the time of bid opening to the time of Contract award, if any Bidder wishes to contact the Employer on any matter related to the bidding process, it should do so in writing.
- 29. Clarification of**
- 29.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, and comparison of the Bids, and qualification of the Bidders, the Employer may, at its discretion, ask any

- Bids**
- Bidder for a clarification of its Bid. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder that is not in response to a request by the Employer shall not be considered. The Employer's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in the prices or substance of the Bid shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the Employer in the evaluation of the Bids, in accordance with ITB 33.
- 29.2 If a Bidder does not provide clarifications of its Bid by the date and time set in the Employer's request for clarification, its Bid may be rejected.
- 30. Deviations, Reservations, and Omissions**
- 30.1 During the evaluation of Bids, the following definitions apply:
- (a) "Deviation" is a departure from the requirements specified in the Bidding Document;
 - (b) "Reservation" is the setting of limiting conditions or withholding from complete acceptance of the requirements specified in the Bidding Document; and
 - (c) "Omission" is the failure to submit part or all of the information or documentation required in the Bidding Document.
- 31. Determination of Responsiveness**
- 31.1 The Employer's determination of a bid's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the Bid itself, as defined in ITB11.
- 31.2 A substantially responsive Bid is one that meets the requirements of the Bidding Document without material deviation, reservation, or omission. A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that,
- (a) if accepted, would:
 - (i) affect in any substantial way the scope, quality, or performance of the plant and services specified in the Contract; or
 - (ii) limit in any substantial way, inconsistent with the Bidding Document, the Employer's rights or the Bidder's obligations under the proposed Contract; or
 - (b) if rectified, would unfairly affect the competitive position of other Bidders presenting substantially responsive Bids.
- 31.3 The Employer shall examine the technical aspects of the Bid submitted in accordance with ITB 17, Technical Proposal, in particular, to confirm that all requirements of Section 6 (Employer's Requirements) have been met without any material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 31.4 If a Bid is not substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document, it shall be rejected by the Employer and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 32. Nonmaterial Nonconformities**
- 32.1 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may waive any nonconformities in the Bid that do not constitute a material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 32.2 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may request

that the Bidder submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities in the Bid related to documentation requirements. Requesting information or documentation on such nonconformities shall not be related to any aspect of the price of the Bid. Failure of the Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Bid.

32.3 Provided that a bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall rectify quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities related to the Bid Price. To this effect, the Bid Price shall be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of a missing or nonconforming item or component. The adjustment shall be made using the method indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

33. Correction of Arithmetical Errors

33.1 Provided that the Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall correct arithmetical errors on the following basis:

- (a) where there are errors between the total of the amounts given under the column for the price breakdown and the amount given under the Total Price, the amounts given under the column for the price breakdown shall prevail and the Total Price will be corrected accordingly;
- (b) where there are errors between the total of the amounts of Schedule Nos. 1 to 4 and the amount given in Schedule No. 5 (Grand Summary), the total of the amounts of Schedule Nos. 1 to 4 shall prevail and the Schedule No. 5 (Grand Summary) will be corrected accordingly;
- (c) if there is a discrepancy between the grand total price given in Schedule No. 5 (Grand Summary) and the bid amount in item (c) of the Letter of Bid, the grand total price given in Schedule No. 5 (Grand Summary) will prevail and the bid amount in item (c) of the Letter of Bid will be corrected; and
- (d) if there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetical error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to (a), (b), and (c) above.

33.2 If the Bidder that submitted the lowest evaluated Bid does not accept the correction of errors, its Bid shall be disqualified and its bid security may be forfeited, or its Bid-Securing Declaration executed.

34. Conversion to Single Currency

34.1 For evaluation and comparison purposes, the currency(ies) of the Bid shall be converted into a single currency as specified in the BDS .

35. Margin of Preference

35.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, a margin of preference shall not apply.

36. Evaluation of Bids

36.1 The Employer shall use the criteria and methodologies indicated in this clause. No other evaluation criteria or methodologies shall be permitted.

36.2 Technical Evaluation

The Employer will carry out a detailed technical evaluation of the Bids not

previously rejected as being substantially nonresponsive, to determine whether the technical aspects are in compliance with the Bidding Document. The Bid that does not meet required minimum acceptable standards of completeness, consistency and detail, and the specified minimum and/or maximum requirements for specified functional guarantees will be treated as nonresponsive and hence rejected. To reach such a determination, the Employer will examine and compare the technical aspects of the bids on the basis of the information supplied by the Bidders, taking into account the following:

- (a) overall completeness and compliance with the Employer's Requirements; deviations from the Employer's Requirements; conformity of the plant and services offered with specified performance criteria; suitability of the plant and services offered in relation to the environmental and climatic conditions prevailing at the site; and quality, function and operation of any process control concept included in the Bid. The Bid that does not meet minimum and/or maximum acceptable standards of completeness, consistency and detail will be rejected for nonresponsiveness;
- (b) type, quantity, and long-term availability of mandatory and recommended spare parts and maintenance services; and
- (c) other relevant factors, if any, listed in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

36.3 Where alternative technical solutions have been allowed in accordance with ITB 13, and offered by the Bidder, the Employer will make a similar evaluation of the alternatives. Where alternatives have not been allowed but have been offered, they shall be ignored.

36.4 Economic Evaluation

I. To evaluate a Bid, the Employer shall consider the following:

- (a) the bid price, excluding provisional sums and the provision, if any, for contingencies in the Price Schedules;
- (b) price adjustment for correction of arithmetical errors in accordance with ITB 33.1;
- (c) price adjustment due to discounts offered in accordance with ITB 18.7;
- (d) price adjustment due to quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities in accordance with ITB 32.3;
- (e) converting the amount resulting from applying (a) to (c) above, if relevant, to a single currency in accordance with ITB 34; and
- (f) the evaluation factors indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

II. The Employer's evaluation of a Bid will exclude and not take into account:

- (a) in the case of Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts (Schedule No. 1) supplied from abroad, all taxes and duties, applicable in the Employer's country and payable on the Plant and Mandatory Spare

Parts if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder; and

(b) in the case of Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts (Schedule No. 2) supplied from within the Employer's country, sales and other taxes, applicable in the Employer's country and payable on the Plant and Mandatory Spare Parts if the Contract is awarded to the Bidder.

36.5 If price adjustment is allowed in accordance with ITB 18.6, the estimated effect of the price adjustment provisions of the Conditions of Contract, applied over the period of execution of the Contract, shall not be taken into account in bid evaluation.

36.6 If this Bidding Document allows Bidders to quote separate prices for different lots (contracts), and the award to a single Bidder of multiple lots (contracts), the methodology to determine the lowest evaluated price of the lot (contract) combinations, including any discounts offered in the Letter of Bid, is specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

36.7 If the Bid, which results in the lowest Evaluated Bid Price, is seriously unbalanced or front loaded in the opinion of the Employer, the Employer may require the Bidder to produce detailed price analyses for any or all items of the Price Schedules, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the methods and time schedule proposed. After evaluation of the price analyses, taking into consideration the terms of payments, the Employer may require that the amount of the performance security be increased at the expense of the Bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Employer against financial loss in the event of default of the successful Bidder under the Contract.

37. Comparison of Bids

37.1 The Employer shall compare all substantially responsive Bids to determine the lowest evaluated Bid, in accordance with ITB 36.4.

38. Eligibility and Qualification of the Bidder

38.1 The Employer shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Bidder that is selected as having submitted the lowest evaluated and substantially responsive Bid is eligible and meets the qualifying criteria specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

38.2 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted by the Bidder, pursuant to ITB 15.

38.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for award of the Contract to the Bidder. A negative determination shall result in disqualification of the Bid, in which event the Employer shall proceed to the next lowest evaluated Bid to make a similar determination of that Bidder's qualifications to perform satisfactorily.

38.4 The capabilities of the manufacturers and subcontractors proposed in its Bid for the major items of plant and services to be used by the lowest evaluated Bidder will also be evaluated for acceptability in accordance with Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria). Their participation should be confirmed with a letter of intent between the parties, as needed. Should a manufacturer or subcontractor be determined to be unacceptable, the Bid will not be rejected, but the Bidder will be required

to propose, without changing its bid price, an acceptable substitute manufacturer or subcontractor meeting the minimum technical specifications stated in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). If a Bidder does not provide an acceptable substitute manufacturer or subcontractor by the date and time set in the Employer's request for substitution of manufacturer or subcontractor, its Bid may be rejected.

- 38.5 Prior to signing the Contract, the corresponding Appendix to the Contract Agreement shall be completed, listing the approved manufacturers or subcontractors for each item concerned.
- 39. Employer's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids**
- 39.1 The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders. In case of annulment, all Bids submitted and specifically, bid securities, shall be promptly returned to the Bidders.

F. Award of Contract

- 40. Award Criteria**
- 40.1 The Employer shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined to be the lowest evaluated Bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Document, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be eligible and qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
- 41. Notification of Award**
- 41.1 Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity, the Employer shall notify the successful Bidder, in writing, that its Bid has been accepted.
- 41.2 At the same time, the Employer shall also notify all other Bidders of the results of the bidding. The Employer will publish in an English language newspaper or well-known freely accessible website the results identifying the Bid and lot numbers, and the following information: (i) name of each Bidder who submitted a Bid; (ii) bid prices as read out at bid opening; (iii) name and evaluated prices of each bid that was evaluated; (iv) name of Bidders whose Bids were rejected and the reasons for their rejection; and (v) name of the winning Bidder, and the price it offered, as well as the duration and summary scope of the contract awarded. After publication of award, unsuccessful Bidders may request in writing to the Employer for a debriefing seeking explanations on the grounds on which their Bids were not selected. The Employer shall promptly respond in writing to any unsuccessful Bidder who, after publication of contract award, request for a debriefing.
- 41.3 Until a formal contract is prepared and executed, the notification of award shall constitute a binding Contract.
- 42. Signing of Contract**
- 42.1 Promptly after notification, the Employer shall send the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement.
- 42.2 Within 28 days of receipt of the Contract Agreement, the successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return it to the Employer.
- 43. Performance Security**
- 43.1 Within 28 days of the receipt of notification of award from the Employer, the successful Bidder shall furnish the performance security in accordance with the Conditions of Contract, subject to ITB 36.7, using for that purpose the

Performance Security Form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms), or another form acceptable to the Employer.

- 43.2 Failure of the successful Bidder to submit the above-mentioned Performance Security or sign the Contract shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the bid security or execution of the Bid-Securing Declaration. In that event, the Employer may award the Contract to the next lowest evaluated Bidder whose offer is substantially responsive and is determined by the Employer to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.