

Section 1: Instructions to Bidders

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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 the Works as specified in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). The name, identification, and number of contracts of this bidding document are provided in the BDS.
 - 1.2 Throughout this Bidding Document,
 - (a) the term "in writing" means communicated in written form and delivered against receipt;
 - (b) except where the context requires otherwise, words indicating the singular also include the plural and words indicating the plural also include the singular; and
 - (c) "day" means calendar day.
2. **Source of Funds**
 - 2.1 The source of funds for the project named in the BDS is **indicated in the BDS**.
3. **Fraud and Corruption**
 - 3.1 The Employer requires that Bidders, Suppliers, Contractors and their agents (whether declared or not), personnel, subcontractors, sub-consultants, service providers and suppliers, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuit of this requirement, the Employer:
 - (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) "abuse" means theft, waste, or improper use of assets related to Solomon Power-related activity, either committed intentionally or through reckless disregard;
 - (vi) "conflict of interest" means any situation in which a party has interests that could improperly influence that party's performance of official duties or responsibilities, contractual obligations, or compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

- (vii) "obstructive practice" means (a) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering, or concealing of evidence material to Solomon Power investigation, or deliberately making false statements to investigators, with the intent to impede an investigation; (b) threatening, harassing, or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to an investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or (c) deliberate acts intended to impede the exercise of Solomon Power's contractual rights of audit or inspection or access to information; and
 - (viii) "integrity violation" is any act, which violates Solomon Power's Procurement Policy, including (i) to (vii) above, and 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 financing allocated to a contract if it determines at any time that representatives of the Employer engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, or obstructive practices or other integrity violations during the procurement or the execution of that contract;
 - (d) will impose remedial actions on a firm or an individual, at any time, in accordance with Solomon Power's Procurement Policy, including declaring ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to participate¹ in Solomon Power-financed, activities 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 bidding documents and in contracts financed by Solomon Power, requiring Bidders, suppliers, and contractors to permit Solomon Power 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 Solomon Power.
- 3.2 All Bidders, consultants, contractors, suppliers, and other third parties engaged or involved in Solomon Power-related activities have a duty to cooperate fully in any screening or investigation when requested by Solomon Power to do so. Such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (a) being available to be interviewed and replying fully and truthfully to all questions asked;
 - (b) providing Solomon Power with any items requested that are within the party's control including, but not limited to, documents and other physical objects;
 - (c) upon written request by Solomon Power, authorising other related entities to release directly to Solomon Power such information that

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is specifically and materially related, directly or indirectly, to the said entities or issues which are the subject of the investigation;

- (d) cooperating with all reasonable requests to search or physically inspect their person and/or work areas, including files, electronic databases, and personal property used on Solomon Power activities, or that utilises Solomon Power's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) resources or systems (including mobile phones, personal electronic devices, and electronic storage devices such as external disk drives);
- (e) cooperating in any testing requested by Solomon Power, including but not limited to, fingerprint identification, handwriting analysis, and physical examination and analysis; and
- (f) preserving and protecting confidentiality of all information discussed with, and as required by, Solomon Power.

3.3 All Bidders, consultants, contractors and suppliers shall ensure that, in its contract with its sub-consultants, Subcontractors and other third parties engaged or involved in Solomon Power -related activities, such Sub-consultants, Subcontractors and other third parties similarly undertake the foregoing duty to cooperate fully in any screening or investigation when requested by Solomon Power to do so.

3.4 The Employer hereby puts the Bidder on notice that the Bidder or any Joint Venture partner of the Bidder (if any) may not be able to receive any payments under the Contract if the Bidder or any of its Joint Venture partners, as appropriate, is, or is owned (in whole or in part) by a person or entity subject to applicable sanctions.

3.5 Furthermore, Bidders shall be aware of the provisions of GCC 28.3 and 73.2 (i).

4. Eligible Bidders

4.1 A Bidder may be a natural person, private entity, or government-owned enterprises subject to ITB 4.5-or any combination of them with a formal 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 parties 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 parties 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 partners 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 of the Bidding Document. 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, Joint Venture Partner, Associates, Parent Company, or any Affiliated Entity, participated as a Consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the works 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 as Engineer for the Contract; or
 - (h) a Bidder would be providing Goods, Works, or Non-Consulting Services resulting from or directly related to consulting services for the preparation or implementation of the project specified in the BDS ITB 2.1 that it provided or were provided by any affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that firm.
- 4.4 A firm shall not be eligible to participate in any procurement activities under any Solomon Power-financed, project while under temporary suspension or debarment by Solomon Power pursuant to Solomon Power's Procurement Policy (see ITB 3), whether such debarment was directly imposed by Solomon Power, or enforced by Solomon Power 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 Employer'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 a dependent agency of the Government.

- 4.6 A Bidder shall not be under suspension from Bidding by the Employer as the result of the execution of a Bid–Securing Declaration.
- 4.7 Bidders shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Employer, as the Employer shall reasonably request.
- 4.8 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 Employer prohibits any import of goods or contracting of works or services from that country or any payments to persons or entities in that country.

5. Eligible Materials, Equipment, and Services

- 5.1 The Materials, Equipment, and Services to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin in eligible source countries as defined in ITB 4.2 above and all expenditures under the Contract will be limited to such Materials, Equipment, and Services. At the Employer’s request, Bidders may be required to provide evidence of the origin of Materials, Equipment, and Services.
- 5.2 For purposes of ITB 5.1 above, “Origin” means the place where the Materials and Equipment are mined, grown, produced, or manufactured, and from which the services are provided. Materials and Equipment are produced when, through manufacturing, processing, or substantial or major assembling of components, a commercially recognised product results that differs 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 Particular Conditions of Contract (PCC)
- 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 their 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 inquiries during the pre-bid meeting if provided for in accordance with ITB 7.4. The Employer will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received prior to the deadline for submission of bids, within a period given in the BDS. The Employer shall forward copies of its response 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 22.2.
- 7.2 The Bidder is advised to visit and examine the Site of Works and its surroundings and obtain for itself, on its own risk and responsibility, all information that may be necessary for preparing the Bid and entering into a contract for construction of the Works. 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 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 Bidding Document

8.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Bids, the Employer 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 22.2.

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 language specified in the BDS. 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 in the language specified in the BDS, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Bid, such translation shall govern.

11. Documents Comprising the Bid

11.1 The Bid shall comprise the following:

- (a) Letter of Bid;
- (b) Completed Schedules, in accordance with ITB 12 and ITB 14, or as stipulated in the BDS;
- (c) Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, in accordance with ITB 19;
- (d) Alternative Bids, at Bidder's option and if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13;
- (e) Written confirmation authorising the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 20.2;
- (f) Documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 17, establishing the Bidder's qualifications to perform the contract;
- (g) Technical Proposal in accordance with ITB 16;
- (h) 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 Letter of Bid, Schedules, and all Documents listed under Clause 11, shall be prepared using the relevant forms in Section 4 (Bidding Forms), if so provided. The forms must be completed without any alterations to the text, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested and as required in the BDS.
- 13. Alternative Bids**
- 13.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, alternative Bids shall not be considered.
- 13.2 When alternative times for completion are explicitly invited, a statement to that effect will be included in the BDS, as will the method of evaluating different times for completion.
- 13.3 When specified in the BDS pursuant to ITB 13.1, and subject to ITB 13.4 below, Bidders wishing to offer technical alternatives to the requirements of the Bidding Document must first price the Employer's Design as described in the Bidding Document and shall further provide all information necessary for a complete evaluation of the alternative by the Employer, including Drawings, Design Calculations, Technical Specifications, Breakdown of Prices, and Proposed Construction 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 specified in the BDS, Bidders are permitted to submit alternative technical solutions for specified parts of the Works. Such parts will be identified in the BDS and described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). The method for their evaluation will be stipulated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 14. Bid Prices and Discounts**
- 14.1 The prices and discounts quoted by the Bidder in the Letter of Bid and in the Schedules shall conform to the requirements specified below.
- 14.2 The Bidder shall submit a bid for the whole of the works described in ITB 1.1 by filling in prices for all items of the Works, as identified in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). In case of Measurement Contracts, the Bidder shall fill in rates and prices for all items of the Works described in the Bill of Quantities. Items against which no rate or price is entered by the Bidder will not be paid for by the Employer when executed and shall be deemed covered by the rates for other items and prices in the Bill of Quantities.
- 14.3 The price to be quoted in the Letter of Bid shall be the total price of the Bid, excluding any discounts offered. Absence of the Total Bid Price in the Letter of Bid may result in the rejection of the Bid.
- 14.4 The Bidder shall quote any discounts and the methodology for their application in the Letter of Bid, in accordance with ITB 12.1.
- 14.5 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 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 provisions of the Conditions of Contract. A Bid submitted with a fixed price will be treated as non-responsive and be rejected. The Bidder shall furnish the indexes and weightings for the price adjustment formulas in the Tables of Adjustment Data included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) and the Employer may require the Bidder to justify its proposed indexes and weightings. Any bid that omits indexes and weightings shall be subject to clarification with the Bidder.
- 14.6 If so, indicated in ITB 1.1, bids are invited for individual contracts or for any combination of contracts (packages). Bidders wishing to offer any price reduction for the award of more than one Contract shall specify in their Bid, the Price Reductions applicable to each package, or alternatively, to individual Contracts within the package. Price Reductions or Discounts shall be submitted in accordance with ITB 14.4, provided the Bids for all Contracts are submitted and opened at the same time.
- 14.7 All duties, taxes, and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, as of the date 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids, shall be included in the rates and prices and the total bid price submitted by the Bidder.
- 15. Currencies of Bid and Payment**
- 15.1 The currency(ies) of the Bid and payment shall be as specified in the BDS.
- 15.2 Bidders may be required by the Employer to justify, to the Employer's satisfaction, their Local and Foreign Currency requirements, and to substantiate that the amounts included in the prices shown in the appropriate form(s) of Section 4, in which case a detailed breakdown of the Foreign Currency Requirements shall be provided by Bidders.
- 16. Documents Comprising the Technical Proposal**
- 16.1 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. Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Bidder**
- 17.1 To establish its 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).
- 17.2 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 33.
- 18. Period of Validity of Bids**
- 18.1 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.

- 18.2 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 19, it shall also be extended 28 days beyond the deadline of the Extended 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.
- 19. Bid Security/Bid-Securing Declaration**
- 19.1 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.
- 19.2 If a Bid-Securing Declaration is required pursuant to ITB 19.1, 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 the Bid-Securing Declaration is executed
- 19.3 If a Bid Security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the 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,
 - (c) a Cashier's or Certified Check, or
 - (d) SWIFT message in the form of MT760.
- 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 either using 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 18.2.
- 19.4 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 19.1, shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.
- 19.5 If a Bid Security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the Bid Security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned promptly upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the Performance Security pursuant to ITB 44.
- 19.6 If a Bid Security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the Bid Security of the successful Bidder shall be returned promptly once the successful Bidder has signed the Contract and furnished the required performance security.
- 19.7 The Bid Security may be forfeited or the Bid-Securing Declaration executed, if

- (a) notwithstanding ITB 24.3, 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 18.2; or
- (b) the successful Bidder fails to
 - (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITB 43;
 - (ii) furnish a Performance Security in accordance with ITB 44;
 - (iii) accept arithmetical corrections in accordance with ITB 31; or
 - (iv) furnish a Domestic Preference Security, if applicable, in accordance with ITB 44.3.

19.8 If the Bid Security is required as per ITB 19.1, the Bid Security 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 shall be in the name of any or all of the Joint Venture partners. If the Bid-Securing Declaration is required as per ITB 19.1, 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-Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent mentioned in ITB 4.1.

20. Format and Signing of Bid

20.1 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 each of them "COPY." In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.

20.2 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 authorisation 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 authorisation must be typed or printed below the signature. If a Bidder submits a deficient authorisation, the Bid shall not be rejected in the first instance. The Employer shall request the Bidder to submit an acceptable authorisation within the number of days as specified in the BDS. Failure to provide an acceptable authorisation within the period stated in the Employer's request shall cause the rejection of the Bid. If either the Letter of Bid or the Bid-Securing Declaration (if applicable) is not signed, the Bid shall be rejected.

20.3 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

21. Sealing and Marking of Bids

21.1 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 21.2 and ITB 21.3.
- (b) Bidders submitting Bids electronically shall follow the electronic bid submission procedures specified in the BDS.

21.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall

- (a) bear the name and address of the Bidder;
- (b) be addressed to the Employer as provided in BDS 22.1;
- (c) bear the specific identification of this bidding process indicated in BDS 1.1; and
- (d) bear a warning not to open before the time and date for bid opening.

21.3 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.

22. Deadline for Submission of Bids

22.1 Bids must be received by the Employer at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the BDS.

22.2 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.

23. Late Bids

23.1 The Employer shall not consider any Bid that arrives after the deadline for submission of bids, in accordance with ITB 22. Any Bid received by the Employer after the deadline for submission of Bids shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.

24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids

24.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify its Bid after it has been submitted by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorised representative, and shall include a copy of the authorisation in accordance with ITB 20.2 (except for withdrawal notices, which 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 20 and ITB 21 (except for withdrawal notices, which 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 22.

24.2 Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITB 24.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders.

24.3 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.

25. Bid Opening

25.1 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 21.1, shall be as specified in the BDS.

25.2 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 authorisation 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. 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 authorisation 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 authorisation 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.

25.3 All other envelopes shall be opened one at a time, reading out the name of the Bidder; the Bid Price(s), including any discounts and alternative bids and indicating whether there is a modification; the inclusion of a Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if required; and any other details as the Employer may consider appropriate. Only discounts and alternative offers read out at Bid Opening shall be considered for Evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all pages of the Letter of Bid and 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 23.1.

25.4 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 contract if applicable, including any discounts and alternative offers; and the inclusion or omission 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 records. A

copy of the records 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

- 26. Confidentiality**
- 26.1 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, comparison, and post qualification of Bids and recommendation of Contract Award, shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until the publication of Contract Award.
- 26.2 Any attempt by a Bidder(s) to influence the Employer in the Bids Evaluation or Contract Award decisions may result in the rejection of his (their) Bid(s).
- 26.3 Notwithstanding ITB 26.2, from the time of Bid Opening to the time of Contract Award, if any Bidder(s) wishes to contact the Employer on any matter related to the bidding process, he (they) may do so in writing.
- 27. Clarification of Bids**
- 27.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, and comparison of the bids, and qualification of the Bidders, the Employer may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder(s) for a clarification of his (their) Bid. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder(s) 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 31.
- 27.2 If a Bidder(s) does not provide clarifications of his (their) Bid (s) by the date and time set in the Employer's request for clarification, his (their) Bid(s) may be rejected.
- 28. Deviations, Reservations, and Omissions**
- 28.1 During the Bids Evaluation, 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(s) required in the Bidding Document.
- 29. Determination of Responsiveness**
- 29.1 The Employer's determination of a Bid's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the Bid(s) itself, as defined in ITB 11.
- 29.2 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 Works 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 Bidder(s) presenting substantially responsive Bids.
- 29.3 The Employer shall examine the technical aspects of the Bid(s) submitted in accordance with ITB 16, 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.
- 29.4 If a Bid (s) is(or) not substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document, Bid (s) shall be rejected by the Employer and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 30. Nonmaterial Nonconformities**
- 30.1 Provided that a Bid (s) is(are) substantially responsive, the Employer may waive any nonconformities in the Bid that do not constitute a material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 30.2 Provided that a Bid(s) is(are) 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 Bid Price. Failure of the Bidder(s) to comply with the request may result in the rejection of his (their) Bid.
- 30.3 Provided that Bid(s) is(are) substantially responsive, the Employer shall rectify quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities related to the Bid Price. To this effect, the Bid Price may be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of a missing or non-conforming item or component. The adjustment shall be made using the methods indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 31. Correction of Arithmetical Errors**
- 31.1 Provided that the Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall correct arithmetical errors on the following basis:
- (a) Only for admeasurement contracts, if there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of the Employer there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which case the total price as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected.
 - (b) If there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail and the total shall be corrected.
 - (c) If there is a discrepancy between the bid price in the Summary of Bill of Quantities and the bid amount in item (c) of the Letter of Bid, the Bid Price in the Summary of Bill of Quantities will prevail and the Bid Amount in item (c) of the Letter of Bid will be corrected.
 - (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 arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to (a), (b) and (c) above.

31.2 If the Bidder that submitted the Lowest Evaluated Bid does not accept the correction of errors, his bid shall be disqualified and his Bid Security may be forfeited or his Bid-Securing Declaration executed.

32. Conversion to Single Currency

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

33. Domestic Preference

33.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, domestic preference shall not apply.

34. Subcontractors

34.1 Unless otherwise stated in the BDS, the Employer does not intend for the Contractor to execute any specific elements of the Works through nominated Subcontractors.

34.2 If Subcontractor(s) is (are) proposed for any of the key activities listed in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification) Criteria 2.4.2, they shall be considered as "Specialist Subcontractors" and shall meet qualification requirements for the relevant key activities.

35. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

35.1 The Employer shall use the criteria and methodologies listed in this Clause. No other Evaluation Criteria or Methodologies shall be permitted.

35.2 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 Summary Bill of Quantities for admeasurement contracts, or Schedule of Prices for lump sum contracts, but including Daywork items, where priced competitively;
- (b) Price Adjustment for correction of arithmetic errors in accordance with ITB 31.1;
- (c) Price Adjustment due to discounts offered in accordance with ITB 14.4;
- (d) converting the amount resulting from applying (a) to (c) above, if relevant, to a single currency in accordance with ITB 32;
- (e) adjustment for nonmaterial nonconformities in accordance with ITB 30.3;
- (f) assessment whether the bid is abnormally low in accordance with ITB 36; and
- (g) application of all the evaluation factors indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

35.3 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.

35.4 If this Bidding Document allows Bidders to quote separate prices for different contracts, and to award multiple contracts to a single Bidder, the methodology to determine the lowest evaluated price of the contract

combinations, including any discounts offered in the Letter of Bid, is specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

35.5 The Employer shall compare all substantially responsive Bids to determine the Lowest Evaluated Bid, in accordance with ITB 35.2.

36. Abnormally Low Bids

36.1 An abnormally low bid is one where the Bid Price, in combination with other elements of the Bid, appears to be so low that it raises concerns as to the capability of the Bidder to perform the contract for the offered Bid Price.

36.2 When the offered bid price appears to be abnormally low, the Employer shall undertake a three-step review process as follows:

(a) identify abnormally low costs and unit rates by comparing them with the Engineer's Estimates, other substantially responsive bids, or recently awarded similar contracts;

(b) clarify and analyse the bidder's resource inputs and pricing, including overheads, contingencies and profit margins; and

(c) decide whether to accept or reject the bid.

36.3 With regard to ITB 36.2 (b) above, the Employer will seek a written explanation from the bidder of the reasons for the offered bid price, including a detailed analysis of costs and unit prices, by reference to the scope, proposed methodology, schedule, and allocation of risks and responsibilities. This may also include information regarding the economy of the manufacturing process; the services to be provided, or the construction method to be used; the technical solutions to be adopted; and any exceptionally favorable conditions available to the bidder for the works, equipment or services proposed.

36.4 After examining the explanation given and the detailed price analyses presented by the bidder, the Employer may:

(a) accept the Bid, if the evidence provided satisfactorily accounts for the Low Bid Price and costs, in which case the bid is not considered abnormally low;

(b) accept the Bid, but 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. The amount of the performance security shall generally be not more than 20% of the contract price; or

(c) reject the Bid if the evidence provided does not satisfactorily account for the low bid price, and make a similar determination for the next ranked Bid, if required.

37. Unbalanced or Front-Loaded Bids

37.1 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 Bill of Quantities, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the construction methods and schedule proposed, as well as the pricing and sources of materials, equipment and labor.

37.2 After the evaluation of the information and detailed price analyses presented by the Bidder, the Employer may decide as appropriate:

- (a) accept the Bid; or
- (b) accept the Bid, but require that the total 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 subject to ITB 44.2; or
- (c) reject the Bid and make a similar determination for the next ranked bid.

38. 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 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 17.1. Unless permitted in the BDS, the determination shall not take into consideration the qualifications of other firms such as the Bidder's subsidiaries, parent entities, affiliates, Subcontractors, or any other firm(s) different from the Bidder.
- 38.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for Award of the Contract to the Bidder. The Employer reserves the right to reject the bid of any bidder found to be in circumstances described in GCC 73.2(c). 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.

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.

40. Notice of Intention for Award of Contract

- 40.1 If Standstill provisions apply as specified in the BDS, the standstill period shall be defined in the BDS to specify the duration subsequent to Notification of Intention for Award of Contract (before making the actual Contract Award) within which any unsuccessful bidder can challenge the proposed award.

F. Award of Contract

41. Award Criteria

- 41.1 The Employer shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined in line with ITB 35 to ITB 37 above, to be the Lowest Evaluated Bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Document, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.

42. Notification of Award

- 42.1 Prior to the expiration of the period of Bid Validity and upon expiry of the standstill period specified in ITB 40.1, or upon satisfactory resolution of

a complaint filed within standstill period, if applicable, the Employer shall transmit the Notification of Award using the form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms) to the successful Bidder, in writing, that its Bid has been accepted. At the same time, the Employer shall also notify all other Bidders of the results of the Bidding.

42.2 Unless standstill period applies, upon Notification 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 and/or in a debriefing meeting to any unsuccessful Bidder who, after publication of Contract Award, requests a debriefing.

42.3 Until a formal contract is prepared and executed, the notification of award shall constitute a binding Contract.

43. Signing of Contract

43.1 Promptly after Notification, the Employer shall send the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement.

43.2 Within 28 days of receipt of the Contract Agreement, the successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return it to the Employer.

44. Performance Security

44.1 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 and ITB 37, using for that purpose the Performance Security Form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms), or another form acceptable to the Employer. If the institution issuing the Performance Security is located outside the country of the Employer, they shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the country of the Employer to make it enforceable.

44.2 Failure of the successful Bidder to submit the above-mentioned Performance Security or to sign the Contract Agreement shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the Contract 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.

44.3 The above provision shall also apply to the furnishing of a domestic preference security, if so required.