



ENERGIE ȘI BIOMASĂ

Resurse energetice alternative pentru Moldova



Informational Meeting

Prequalification Request for the design and construction of biomass heating systems in Moldova (IPQ12/00502)

28/02/2012, 10:00

Chisinau, UN Conference room, 29 Sfatul Tarii str., 3rd floor

Participants	
Representatives of 13 companies/organizations attended the meeting	
UNDP Moldova	
1. Corneliu Martiniuc	UNDP Moldova Procurement Associate
2. Alexandru Ursul	MEBP Project Manager
3. Mihai Maciuca	MEBP Procurement and Contract Management Officer
4. Vsevolod Valcov	MEBP Engineer

The purpose of the Informational Meeting is to present to interested companies/organizations what are the project objectives and clarify some procedure matters pertaining to the submission of Statements of Qualification.

The deadline for submission of the Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) is 26 March 2012, 16:30, Moldova local time.

Background

On the 4th of July 2011 UNDP Moldova issued the first round of Prequalification (IPQ11/00390) in the result of which seven (7) consortia were shortlisted for participation in limited international competitions for the design and construction of biomass heating systems within Moldova Energy and Biomass Project (MEBP). However, in the meantime, one of the companies became ineligible for contracting by virtue of sanctions imposed by another participating agency in the UN System and the total number of selected companies/consortia was reduced to six (6).

The scope of the current Prequalification Request is to select up to 4 additional companies/consortia and to increase the overall number of companies/consortia participating in limited international competitions. It follows the same format as the first round of Prequalification and has the same qualification requirements. The applicants will be assessed in a two-stage process for compliance with the requirements set out in the PQR. In 1st stage each Applicant will be assessed on a "Pass/Fail" basis as to whether each criterion is satisfactorily met. An assessment of "Fail" against any criterion shall eliminate the Applicant from further consideration. All Applicants that have been able to meet all the mandatory criteria of selection shall proceed to the next stage of the point score evaluation. Point score evaluation criteria are available in Annex II of the PQR. Up to four (4) top ranked Applicants shall be selected and included in the list of pre-qualified companies/consortia enabling them to take part in limited international competitions for the design and construction of biomass heating systems within MEBP.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

Following the experience of the works contracted since the previous Prequalification, and taking into the consideration the recent evolution of biomass fuel production in Moldova, it was decided to also allow construction of heating systems based on biomass briquettes and pellets besides straw bales. The Scope of Works (Section II) as well as other relevant provisions and forms were updated accordingly.

Participants were invited to visit the webpage of the previous Prequalification Request (<http://www.undp.md/tenders/details/390/>) and familiarize themselves with the documents and the minutes of informational meeting contained therein.

The applicants were notified upon the necessity to provide all required information in details as indicated in the solicitation documents. Incomplete information which makes the evaluation impossible may result in the elimination of the applicant from the competition. To facilitate the submission of SOQs, the solicitation document includes a series of forms which shall be filled by the applicants. The applicants should keep the original template of the forms and only insert their inputs as required therein.

The documents (financial statements, certificates, licenses, Articles of Association, consortia agreement, etc.) must be provided in English. Wherever documents are provided in a language other than English, these should be accompanied by a proper translation into English of the most important passages.

Questions and answers:

Q: What major modifications were introduced in the solicitation document compared with the previous round of Prequalification?

A: The document has the same format and stipulates the same qualification requirements as the previous one. Yet some changes were introduced and these are:

- The previously "RFP Stage" was substituted with the "ITB stage";
- The following clauses were introduced meant to clarify the evaluation of SOQs:
 - o Straw fired boiler plant construction, reconstruction and installation projects (if different) will be also included for the calculation of the total number of Biomass Boiler plant construction, reconstruction and installation projects;
 - o Past experience shall not be demonstrated cumulatively, i.e. as the cumulative experience of two or more members of the consortium. It shall be only relied upon the past experience of the consortium member with the highest number of projects;
- Introduction of other types of fuel (biomass briquettes and pellets) for the heating systems besides straw bales.
- Express indication that the applicants need to specify all their relevant past projects and do not limit the list to the minimum number of projects required in accordance the solicitation documents. This will influence the calculation of the total score in the second stage of evaluation. The applicants with the highest number of completed projects will gain the maximum number of points, while the others will gain the score at the prorata indicated in the document.

Q: The solicitation document requires submitting financial statements for the last 3 fiscal years endorsed/certified by the relevant national authority. In accordance with the Moldovan legislation the financial statements for 2011 shall be endorsed to the national authorities by 31 March 2012. May the applicants submit preliminary financial statements in case the final one is not being endorsed to the national authorities by the deadline of the competition?

A: Preliminary financial statements will be accepted for evaluation. However, the applicants will need to submit final endorsed financial statements before the finalization of the evaluation.

Q: Is it required that the lead member has the highest number of completed projects for past experience qualification?

A: It may be any member of the consortium which may have the highest number of projects completed. For evaluation, past experience shall not be demonstrated cumulatively. Only the experience of the consortium member with the highest number of projects shall be taken into consideration at point score calculation. Yet all relevant experience of each consortium member should be indicated accordingly.

Q: Is it mandatory that each consortium member has experience in both designing and construction of heating systems?

A: No. A consortium member may be experienced either in designing or in construction of heating systems, or in both if that is the case.

Q: Is it mandatory to have previous experience in designing or construction of biomass heating systems?

A: No. Companies without previous experience in designing or construction of biomass heating systems may also be eligible. Though such experience is an advantage and will influence on the overall calculation of the point score.

Q: Are there any standards for the design/construction of this specific type of heating systems?

A: There are no national standards available specifically for this type of heating systems. However the competent authorities are currently developing them, including with the support of MEBP, and these should be published during this year. Nevertheless it should be mentioned that all the ongoing contracts are being performed without significant impediments, and by now most of the design documentation had passed all required verifications and approvals.

Q: What are the applicable procurement rules?

A: UNDP Procurement rules will be applied. Applicants are required to consult them by accessing the following link (also indicated in the art.3 of the Instructions to Applicants) <http://web.undp.org/procurement/operate.shtml>. In the SOQ Submission Form applicants have to expressly indicate that they are familiar with and agree to comply with the terms and conditions expressed therein.

Q: What will happen after the submission of SOQs?

A: UNDP will evaluate the SOQs, and upon the finalization of the evaluation all applicants will be notified on its result. Subsequently all prequalified companies/consortia will participate in limited international competitions (ITBs). The first ITB following the completion of the evaluation will be announced in June 2012. Other ITBs will be announced every 3-4 months. Should be noted that 35 of such heating systems have already been contracted, yet it is estimated that considering the actual construction costs and the available budget there could be constructed more than 130 heating systems.

Q: Who estimates the capacity of the boiler necessary for heating of the public buildings? Who decides what type of fuel will be used for each location?

A: UNDP has contracted certified engineers who visit each location before the announcement of the ITBs and evaluate the state of the buildings and calculate the required heat output capacity. In addition, the local administration in consultation with the MEBP specialists, depending on a series of criteria, decides on the most appropriate type of fuel which is to be used for the heating system (straw bales, briquettes or pellets). In such a way all this information will be provided by UNDP to the prequalified companies/consortia at the ITB stage, companies shall not be required to perform these assessments.