

UPDATED: Questions and Responses

RFP – EASTERN AFRICA POWER SYSTEM MODELING AND NETWORK STUDIES

QUESTION: Is French mandatory for this project?

ANSWER: No, French is not mandatory (although it is helpful as Burundi is a French-speaking country). All data collection and modeling trainings will be conducted in English. However, all the reports will be produced in English and in French (consultants can draft reports in English and hire commercial translators to translate these reports into French).

QUESTION: Is security-safety in Burundi assured?

ANSWER: USEA cannot assure safety in Burundi, however we will provide security services if necessary (for example, for the data collection site visit). We will monitor the situation in Burundi closely, follow all U.S. Government security alerts and travel advisories, and will adjust our travel and training schedule if necessary.

QUESTION: Are non-USA consultants allowed to bid?

ANSWER: Yes, this competition is open to U.S. and international consultants. The only organizations not eligible to bid are those subject to OFAC regulations (<https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>) and those that are barred from working with the U.S. Government (a full list can be found on the System for Award Management).

Please note that consultants proposed to conduct trainings must be eligible for visas to Burundi and Kenya.

QUESTION: We don't have DUNS nor SAM, how can we solve it? May be going in a partnership?

ANSWER: You can either obtain a DUNS number and SAM registration or you can partner with an organization or individual who already has both.

Please keep in mind that USEA can only sign a subcontract agreement with an organization that is current on its SAM registration. In other words, if you are partnering with another organization that provides its DUNS number and SAM registration to fulfill the requirements of this RFP, USEA will sign a subcontract agreement with that organization.

QUESTION: Does the DUNS/SAM requirement mean that a bidder should be registered as a service provider to the USEA as Implementing Agency to qualify to respond to the RFP?

ANSWER: No, USEA does not register any companies or consultants as service providers. A bidder must be registered as a vendor eligible to do business with the U.S. Government. The System for Award Management (SAM) is a federal government's vendor database. For more information please visit:

DUNS:

- https://products.dandb.com/duns-number/?medium=TSA&gclid=EAlaQobChMluJyc6_HG3AIVw4uzCh2Upwi8EAAAYASAAEgLqAvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds
- <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

SAM:

- <https://sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/generalInfo/aboutSAM.jsf>
- <http://www.aptac-us.org/sam-registration-is-free-be-careful-what-you-pay-for/>

As obtaining a DUNS number and getting registered in SAM might take some time, USEA will accept proof that a bidder is **in the process** of obtaining a DUNS number and SAM registration. The winning bidder must have both before the subcontract agreement is signed.

QUESTION: Are there any restrictions as to who could bid on this project? In other words, is this limited to U.S. based firms only or is this open to any firm either U.S. or foreign acting as the prime contractor. Additionally, is teaming allowed with a combination of US based and foreign firms?

ANSWER: No, there are no restrictions on who could bid on this project, this competition is open to U.S. and international consultants regardless of which consultant or firm acts as the prime contractor. The only organizations not eligible to bid are those subject to OFAC regulations (<https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>) and those that are barred from working with the U.S. Government (a full list can be found on the System for Award Management). Teaming of U.S.-based and foreign firms is allowed.

QUESTION: Page – 7 of the RFP ask for labour cost, other direct cost and indirect cost. Could you please elaborate more regarding the direct and indirect cost requested? Do the direct and indirect costs refer to the employee's salary and company overheads respectively?

ANSWER: Yes, we are looking for information on labor costs (total compensation) for each employee proposed for this project, and on company's indirect costs for activities associated with this project. There is no standard format or specific requirements on how to present this information, however, we appreciate a "by hour/by person/by task" breakdown of labor costs.

QUESTION: Page – 7 of the RFP requests for 'completed USAID Contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheet forms'. Is this information mandatory? Can we submit our proposal with declaring a daily rate for each team member nominated?

ANSWER: Yes, this information is mandatory. Salary information must be included; this information will be kept confidential.

QUESTION: On page-3, under USEA Responsibilities, what would be the applicable Per diem rates?

ANSWER: We calculate the per diem rates according to the U.S. Department of State foreign per diem regulations. Please refer to https://aoprals.state.gov/content.asp?content_id=207&menu_id=75 and https://aoprals.state.gov/VWeb920/per_diem.asp. Since USEA will arrange and pay for hotel accommodations and work-related local transportation for travelling consultants, cash per diem payouts will include meals and incidentals.

QUESTION: Is there any standard format for proposal and tables in proposal?

ANSWER: No, there is no standard format.

QUESTION: Please confirm the following statement found in the “Questions and Responses” document (March 18, 2019, <https://www.usea.org/sites/default/files/Power%20Sustem%20Modeling%20RFP--%20Questions%20Updated.pdf>): “As obtaining a DUNS number and getting registered in SAM might take some time, USEA will accept proof that a bidder is in the process of obtaining a DUNS number and SAM registration. The winning bidder must have both before the subcontract agreement is signed.”. Does this mean the companies can submit a proposal without having a SAM number, proving they are in the process of acquiring one? If so, what type of proof would be required?

ANSWER: Yes, we will accept a proposal even if a bidder does not currently have SAM registration, if the bidder can provide proof that they have applied for SAM registration. A PDF copy of an email from “notification@sam.gov” to the bidder stating that the bidder “successfully submitted the entity registration for NAME OF COMPANY in the U.S. Government’s System for Award Management (SAM)” will be considered an acceptable proof.

QUESTION: In the case proposal is submitted by a Consortium of 2 companies, either through a joint venture agreement or a subcontract scheme, is it required that both companies be registered in SAM before contract signature?

ANSWER: Only the signatory to the subcontract agreement with USEA must have current SAM registration.

QUESTION: As per RFP section VI “Evaluation Criteria”, 15% of the points relate to *Experience with similar projects (for each consultant and the organization in general)* but when referring to section V “Proposal content”, experience only seems to be requested for team members, and

NOT for the company itself. (i.e. “Summary of relevant experience of each proposed team member”). Can you please clarify?

ANSWER: We assume that the organization will provide a statement of qualifications, including relevant experience, in the cover letter.

QUESTION: As per RFP section VI “Evaluation Criteria”, 30% of the points relate to Subject matter expertise (education and other relevant experience). Can you please specify what are the differences between this “relevant experience” criteria and the previous one, “experience with similar projects” criteria? Why are they differentiated?

ANSWER: Experience with similar projects might include prior experience with providing trainings for electric utility personnel, with the development and application of a current state network simulation model, with the Burundi power sector and overall experience in the region. Relevant experience under the subject matter expertise refers to broader qualifications and might include detailed knowledge of load flow and dynamic analyses modeling, best practices in the development and application of a current state network simulation model, detailed knowledge of load flow and security analyses, etc.

QUESTION: In what format will the 2015 mid-term model be provided?

ANSWER: The mid-model will be provided in SAV format. It might also be available in RAW and DYR, to be confirmed.

QUESTION: In what software / simulation tool will the database for Task 4 have to be developed?

ANSWER: Operational load flow model for REGIDESO’s current network topology will be developed in PSS/E software.

QUESTION: Can you please confirm that the Burundi network has approximately 60-70MW of peak load?

ANSWER: According to the latest information that we have, Burundi’s yearly peak and minimal load is supposed to be 113 and 86 for 2019, and 121 and 91 for 2020.

QUESTION: Can you please confirm that the model that will be developed is just for year 2019 or 2020?

ANSWER: Yes, we are looking for an operational load flow model for REGIDESO’s current network topology (2019-2020).

QUESTION: Can you please confirm that the Burundi power network is isolated from neighboring countries? If this is not the case can you please confirm that the modeling activity is just related to the Burundi power network excluding other countries network and that the external system (or an equivalent) will be provided by the Client?

ANSWER: No, Burundi is part of the Multinational Interconnection of Electric Grids of the Nile Equatorial Lakes Countries Project and has a number of shared power plants and interconnection lines.

Please visit the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) webpage (<http://nelsap.nilebasin.org/index.php/en/power/power-trade-and-development>) for more information. The current Scope of Work includes developing a load flow model for the Burundi power network only.

QUESTION: Can you confirm that REGIDESO has installed a SCADA system and had or will be able to record measurements of voltage, current and power factor in some relevant points of the network over different timeframes?

ANSWER: Our understanding is that SCADA was installed in Burundi in 2012 and REGIDESO should be able to record measurements.

QUESTION: In the training related to Task 3 it is mentioned that the data requirement and modelling have to be adequate to perform stability studies (which involves dynamics and time domain simulations). Since dynamic studies seems not to be part of the SoW what do you intend exactly for “stabilities studies”?

ANSWER: As the RFP states, one of the objectives of this project is to enhance REGIDESO’s capacity for understanding and operating their network with reliability, security and efficiency. Therefore, we would like REGIDESO personnel to be trained to perform stability calculations and studies (including power system stability, voltage stability, etc.). Please note that final topics for all 3 trainings will be confirmed in consultations with the Consultants, REGIDESO and other parties involved upon selection.

QUESTION: In the training related to task 5 the subjects “Performing dynamic analyses” and “Small signal simulations” are included. Since dynamic studies and the development of the dynamic model for the Burundi’s network seem not to be part of the SoW, is the training expected to be carried out using a dummy network provided by the Consultant?

ANSWER: Yes. Please also note that final topics for all 3 trainings will be confirmed in consultations with the Consultants, REGIDESO and other parties involved upon selection.

QUESTION: No reference to the desired simulation tool is mentioned in the RFP. The consultant intends to use PSS/E software, can you please confirm that this tool is acceptable by the client?

ANSWER: Yes, PSS/E software will be acceptable.