

Questions and Responses

July 22, 2022

RFP – SYSTEM STABILITY AND RELIABILITY STUDY – PROSPECTIVE STATE – ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION NETWORKS OF TAJIKISTAN

QUESTION: Task 2: Conduct a data collection trip to Tajikistan’s largest power plants to obtain all additional data (such as technical documentation, parameters of generators and corresponding control systems, etc.) needed to improve the accuracy of the DigSilent models. Do we need to be physically there to collect all the required data? Or the data will be collected by the clients at site using our recommended list of data required?

ANSWER: The consultants will need to physically travel to the sites, described in the RFP, to collect the data.

QUESTION: What is the allocated budget?

ANSWER: We will not be releasing this information. Bidders should submit their best financial offers.

QUESTION: When is the target award date?

ANSWER: Once the RFP closes, we will evaluate the proposals, make a selection and submit to USAID for approval. The whole process usually takes 5-7 weeks. The target award date is the end of September 2022.

QUESTION: When is the target completion date?

ANSWER: The project should take approximately 12 months to complete. The subcontract agreement USEA will offer to the selected bidder will be valid through December 31, 2023.

QUESTION: [Our company] had previously participated in a similar tender released by USEA titled “POWER SYSTEM MODELING AND LONG-TERM PLANNING – BARQI TOJIK (TAJIKISTAN)”, however we were not selected. Is it possible to let us know who is the previous successful bidder selected?

ANSWER: We do not release information on our bidders.

QUESTION: If possible, we would like to request for a virtual meeting to discuss the above items to have more clarity on the project, and to understand how we can prepare a good proposal that suits your need.

ANSWER: To have a private discussion of this or any other RFP would be a violation of our procurement rules. All questions and requests for clarification must be submitted via email and will be answered through postings on USEA’s website.

QUESTION: [Our company] is the manufacturer of equipment such as high voltage switchgears, transformer, FACTS, HVDC etc. Is there any Conflict of Interest clause pertaining to products supply in the future that we should be aware of?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: [Regarding Task 2: Conduct a data collection trip to Tajikistan's largest power plants to obtain all additional data...]. The data gathering can be performed by site visiting and conducting discussion with corresponding parties (power plant operator, system planning department, and dispatching) in order to gather necessary data on-site in case there are a lot of data as hard copy or sometime discussion/clarifications are required. However, we are wondering if test and measurement of generators are also required to identify the dynamic model, since this can be quite time consuming and affect the budget significantly.

ANSWER: Tests and measurements of generators will not be required.

QUESTION: We do not have the USEA's cooperative agreement available at this stage. Can you please provide it so that we have the full picture of the relevant T&Cs ahead of submitting our bid?

ANSWER: We do not provide the cooperative agreement to any bidder and/or subawardee since it is an executed document between USAID and USEA only. However, we can provide the applicable terms and conditions to your subagreement if you are selected as a subawardee. If you refer to Section III of the RFP under Subaward Agreement Management and Oversight, you will find four links provided that refers to your subagreement applicable terms and conditions/regulations. If you are a Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organization, please refer to this [link](#) for flow down of USAID's Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations. Additionally, we will negotiate any other terms flow down from the cooperative agreement during the subawarding process if you are selected for this activity.

QUESTION: Will there be any unlimited liability clause for the bidder part of the contractual framework? If not, which will be the liability cap (e.g. in percentage of the total required budget)?

ANSWER: There are various types of liabilities explained in [USAID's Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations](#). Please take a look at this document and let us know if you would like to refer to a specific type of liability that we can address your question. Additionally, we can discuss specific terms during the subawarding process if you are selected for this activity. If you are selected, we will share a draft USEA's subagreement template with you to agree on terms and conditions.

QUESTION: Can you indicate a budget limit for this project?

ANSWER: A budget limit has not been established for this project. Bidders should submit their best financial offers.

QUESTION: Is a fixed price proposal required or can the project be priced based on hourly rates with an estimate?

ANSWER: A fixed price proposal is not required but strongly preferred.

QUESTION: We intend to bid via our European entity. Are there any withholding taxes to be considered? Which VAT [%] need to be considered?

ANSWER: USEA will not withhold any taxes from payments to the consultant. It is the consultant's responsibility to determine their tax liability in their country of origin. All costs, included in the financial proposal, must be inclusive of taxes in the consultant's country of origin.

QUESTION: Does the ETN staff to be trained have sufficient number of own PowerFactory licenses available?

ANSWER: No, the consultant will need to provide training licenses. Bidders should ensure that costs of these training licenses are included in the financial proposal.

QUESTION: What is the level of PowerFactory application skills of the training participants?

ANSWER: It varies. ETN engineers have been provided with several DIgSILENT PowerFactory training sessions, including on advanced short-circuit calculations, relay protection simulation, advanced small signal stability and Python Scripting within the framework of a previous project. However, these engineers might not be participating in the current project.

QUESTION: How many ETN engineers shall be trained?

ANSWER: We expect the training groups to consist of 5 to 8 participants, not to exceed 10 trainees per training session.

QUESTION: Looking at the again increasing Covid cases, can all services also be provided remotely?

ANSWER: No. The data collection, workshop and training are to be conducted in-person, unless there is a major and prolonged outbreak. In that case, we will follow the U.S. Department of State and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines regarding international travel and in-person activities and will be open to negotiating alternative arrangements if international travel becomes and remains unsafe.

QUESTION: Are the power plant sites to be visited located in the following high travel risk areas Afghan border, areas of Sughd province bordering Kyrgyzstan or Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast?

ANSWER: The Golovnaya HPP is located less than 100 km from the Tajik-Afghan border.

QUESTION: If we decide to include a subcontractor in our bid, which additional data and documents need to provided?

ANSWER: Please provide a bio sketch, CV and USAID Contractor Employee Biographical Data Sheet for each employee proposed for this project, including subcontractors. Please do not include declarations of association, articles of incorporation or any other documents not specifically requested in the RFP.

QUESTION: Which company developed the available current state and prospective state dynamic models of Tajikistan's power system and how old are these available models?

ANSWER: An Eastern-European engineering consulting company with solid credentials and considerable experience developed the current load flow and dynamic models of the Tajikistan's power system in 2021.

QUESTION: Do the available current state and prospective state dynamic models of Tajikistan's power system reflect the required 2025-2030 prospective scenario incl. the six working scenarios: three hydrology scenarios (wet, average, and dry) for each of the two characteristic regimes (peak and off-peak)?

ANSWER: In response to the utility management's request, the 2025-2030 prospective scenarios developed within the framework of the previous project included min, max and average scenarios for three regimes – winter and summer “evening” peak, average daytime, and “night” off-peak demand.

QUESTION: Instead of May 2022 as stated in the RfP, which is the expected updated start of the 12-months project?

ANSWER: The target award date is the end of September 2022. We expect the project to commence in October 2022.

QUESTION: Task #2 mentioned, “Conduct a data collection trip to Tajikistan’s largest power plants...” The Beneficiary of this Project in Tajikistan is the Electricity Transmission Networks. At the same time, the generation stations are under the control of another company responsible for power generation. Who will be responsible for organizing trips and entrance the permissions to Power Plants? Also, how the Power Stations will send the collected data to the winner? Is it need to sign the NDA with each station?

ANSWER: The USEA Program Manager in charge of this project will be responsible for organizing all trips, securing all necessary permissions, and arranging data delivery. The consultant might need to sign an NDA, but we do not expect that a separate NDA with each power station will be required.

QUESTION: Task #4 mentioned that “Conduct comprehensive system studies for the prospective grid and future planned facilities for the 2025-2030 prospective scenario (System Stability and Reliability Study – Prospective State)..” The one prospective target year (any one year in the range from 2025 to 2030Y) will be selected for study, is it right?

ANSWER: That is correct. One prospective target year will be selected in close consultations with the utility.