



TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA)

BID DOCUMENTS

Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading - Re-Bidding

2017-07

**Fifth Edition
August 2016**

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PART I

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Section I. Request for Expression of Interest

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ISO 9001 : 2008 CERTIFIED

Tatak ng Integridad, Serbisyong Dekalidad, Kaagapay sa Pag-unlad



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PROCUREMENT OF CERTIFICATION SERVICES FOR ISO 9001:2015 RE-CERTIFICATION / UPGRADING RE-BIDDING

1. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), through General Appropriations Act for FY 2017 intends to apply the sum of **One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,800,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading - Re-Bidding**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The TESDA now calls for the submission of eligibility documents for **Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading – Re-Bidding**. Eligibility documents of interested consultants must be duly received by the BAC Secretariat on or before **11 August 2017 at 2:00 p.m.** at CSA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, TESDA Administration Building, Taguig City. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discretionary “pass/fail” criterion.
3. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the **TESDA** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00pm.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested Bidders on **02 August 2017** from the address below and upon payment of the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents, pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00)**.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the “Government Procurement Reform Act”, and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The short list shall consist of three (3) prospective bidders who will be entitled to submit bids. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

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The minimum required St for each criterion is as follows:

The numerical weights for each criterion is as follows:

- (a) Quality of personnel to be assigned to the Project – 30%
 - (b) Experience and capability of the CONSULTANTS – 40%
 - (c) Plan of approach and methodology – 30 %
- 100% (x 85%)

The minimum St required to pass is 70%.


6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184.




Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

7. The Procuring Entity shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedure. The Procuring Entity shall indicate the weights to be allocated for the Technical and Financial Proposals. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
8. The contract shall be completed within seventy-three (73) man-days covering the period of 2017 to 2019.
9. The TESDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

BAC Secretariat
3rd Floor, Procurement Division
TESDA Administration Building
South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City
Telefax: (02) 893-8296

02 August 2017


(Sgd.) DDG DIOSDADO O. PADILLA
BAC Chairperson

Section II. Eligibility Documents

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1. Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1. The following persons/entities shall be allowed to participate in the bidding for Consulting Services:
 - (a) Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
 - (b) Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
 - (c) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
 - (d) Cooperatives duly organized under the laws of the Philippines;
or
 - (e) Persons/entities forming themselves into a joint venture, *i.e.*, a group of two (2) or more persons/entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%). For this purpose, Filipino ownership or interest shall be based on the contributions of each of the members of the joint venture as specified in their JVA.
- 1.2. When the types and fields of Consulting Services involve the practice of professions regulated by law, those who will actually perform the services shall be Filipino citizens and registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions specified in the EDS.
- 1.3. If the Request for Expression of Interest allows participation of foreign consultants, prospective foreign bidders may be eligible subject to the conditions stated in the EDS.
- 1.4. Government owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) may be eligible to participate only if they can establish that they (a) are legally and financially autonomous, (b) operate under commercial law, and (c) are not attached agencies of the Procuring Entity.

2. Eligibility Requirements

- 2.1. The following eligibility requirements, together with the Eligibility Documents Submission Form, shall be submitted on or before the date of the eligibility check specified in the Request for Expression of Interest and Clause 5 for purposes of determining eligibility of prospective bidders:

(a) Class "A" Documents –

Legal Documents

- (i) PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration and Membership in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR, except for foreign bidders participating in the procurement by a Philippine Foreign Service Office or Post, which shall submit their eligibility documents under Section 24.1 of the IRR, provided, that the winning Consultant shall register with PhilGEPS in accordance with Section 37.1.4 of the IRR;

Technical Documents

- (ii) Statement of the prospective bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any, whether similar or not similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid, within the relevant period provided in the EDS. The statement shall include, for each contract, the following:
- (ii.1) the name and location of the contract;
 - (ii.2) date of award of the contract;
 - (ii.3) type and brief description of consulting services;
 - (ii.4) consultant's role (whether main consultant, subconsultant, or partner in a JV)
 - (ii.5) amount of contract;
 - (ii.6) contract duration; and
 - (ii.7) certificate of satisfactory completion or equivalent document specified in the EDS issued by the client, in the case of a completed contract;
- (iii) Statement of the consultant specifying its nationality and confirming that those who will actually perform the service are registered professionals authorized by the appropriate regulatory body to practice those professions and allied professions in accordance with Clause 1.2, including their respective curriculum vitae.

(b) Class "B" Document –

If applicable, the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) in case the joint venture is already in existence, or duly notarized

statements from all the potential joint venture partners in accordance with Section 24.1(b) of the IRR of RA 9184.

- 2.2. The eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents to be submitted to the BAC must be in English. If the eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents submitted to the BAC are in foreign language other than English, it must be accompanied by a translation of the documents in English. The documents shall be translated by the relevant foreign government agency, the foreign government agency authorized to translate documents, or a registered translator in the foreign bidder's country; and shall be authenticated by the appropriate Philippine foreign service establishment/post or the equivalent office having jurisdiction over the foreign bidder's affairs in the Philippines. The English translation shall govern, for purposes of interpretation of the bid.
- 2.3. Prospective bidders may obtain a full range of expertise by associating with individual consultant(s) and/or other consultants or entities through a JV or subcontracting arrangements, as appropriate. However, subconsultants may only participate in the bid of one short listed consultant. Foreign Consultants shall seek the participation of Filipino Consultants by entering into a JV with, or subcontracting part of the project to, Filipino Consultants.

3. Format and Signing of Eligibility Documents

- 3.1. Prospective bidders shall submit their eligibility documents through their duly authorized representative on or before the deadline specified in Clause 5.
- 3.2. Prospective bidders shall prepare an original and copies of the eligibility documents. In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.
- 3.3. The Eligibility Documents Submission Form shall be signed by the duly authorized representative/s of the Bidder. Failure to do so shall be a ground for the rejection of the eligibility documents.
- 3.4. Any interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the duly authorized representative/s of the prospective bidder.

4. Sealing and Marking of Eligibility Documents

- 4.1. Prospective bidders shall enclose their original eligibility documents described in Clause 2.1, in a sealed envelope marked "ORIGINAL – ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS". Each copy thereof shall be similarly sealed duly marking the envelopes as "COPY NO. ____ - ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTS". These envelopes containing the original and the copies shall then be enclosed in one single envelope.

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- 4.2. The original and the number of copies of the eligibility documents as indicated in the EDS shall be typed or written in ink and shall be signed by the prospective bidder or its duly authorized representative/s.
- 4.3. All envelopes shall:
- (c) contain the name of the contract to be bid in capital letters;
 - (d) bear the name and address of the prospective bidder in capital letters;
 - (e) be addressed to the Procuring Entity's BAC specified in the EDS;
 - (f) bear the specific identification of this Project indicated in the EDS; and
 - (g) bear a warning "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE..." the date and time for the opening of eligibility documents, in accordance with Clause 5.
- 4.4 Eligibility documents that are not properly sealed and marked, as required in the bidding documents, shall not be rejected, but the bidder or its duly authorized representative shall acknowledge such condition of the documents as submitted. The BAC shall assume no responsibility for the misplacement of the contents of the improperly sealed or marked eligibility documents, or for its premature opening.

5. **Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Documents**

Eligibility documents must be received by the Procuring Entity's BAC at the address and on or before the date and time indicated in the Request for Expression of Interest and the EDS.

6. **Late Submission of Eligibility Documents**

Any eligibility documents submitted after the deadline for submission and receipt prescribed in Clause 0 shall be declared "Late" and shall not be accepted by the Procuring Entity. The BAC shall record in the minutes of submission and opening of eligibility documents, the Bidder's name, its representative and the time the eligibility documents were submitted late.

7. **Modification and Withdrawal of Eligibility Documents**

- 7.1. The prospective bidder may modify its eligibility documents after it has been submitted; provided that the modification is received by the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline specified in Clause 5. The prospective bidder shall not be allowed to retrieve its original eligibility documents, but shall be allowed to submit another set equally sealed, properly identified, linked to its original bid marked as "ELIGIBILITY MODIFICATION" and stamped "received" by the BAC. Modifications

received after the applicable deadline shall not be considered and shall be returned to the prospective bidder unopened.

- 7.2. A prospective bidder may, through a letter of withdrawal, withdraw its eligibility documents after it has been submitted, for valid and justifiable reason; provided that the letter of withdrawal is received by the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline prescribed for submission and receipt of eligibility documents.
- 7.3. Eligibility documents requested to be withdrawn in accordance with this Clause shall be returned unopened to the prospective bidder concerned. A prospective bidder that withdraws its eligibility documents shall not be permitted to submit another set, directly or indirectly, for the same project. A prospective bidder that acquired the eligibility documents may also express its intention not to participate in the bidding through a letter which should reach and be stamped by the BAC before the deadline for submission and receipt of eligibility documents.

8. Opening and Preliminary Examination of Eligibility Documents

- 8.1. The BAC will open the envelopes containing the eligibility documents in the presence of the prospective bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the time, on the date, and at the place specified in the EDS. The prospective bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.

In case the submitted eligibility envelopes cannot be opened as scheduled due to justifiable reasons, the BAC shall take custody of the said envelopes and reschedule the opening on the next working day or at the soonest possible time through the issuance of a Notice of Postponement to be posted in the PhilGEPS website and the website of the Procuring Entity concerned.

- 8.2. Letters of withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during the opening of eligibility documents and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn eligibility documents shall be returned unopened to the withdrawing prospective bidder.
- 8.3. The eligibility documents envelopes and modifications, if any, shall be opened one at a time, and the following read out and recorded:
 - (h) the name of the prospective bidder;
 - (i) whether there is a modification or substitution; and
 - (j) the presence or absence of each document comprising the eligibility documents vis-à-vis a checklist of the required documents.

8.4. The eligibility of each prospective bidder shall be determined by examining each bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion, as stated in the Request for Expression of Interest, and shall be determined as either "eligible" or "ineligible." If a prospective bidder submits the specific eligibility document required, he shall be rated "passed" for that particular requirement. In this regard, failure to submit a requirement, or an incomplete or patently insufficient submission, shall be considered "failed" for the particular eligibility requirement concerned. If a prospective bidder is rated "passed" for all the eligibility requirements, he shall be considered eligible to participate in the bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the prospective bidder concerned as "eligible." If a prospective bidder is rated "failed" in any of the eligibility requirements, he shall be considered ineligible to participate in the bidding, and the BAC shall mark the set of eligibility documents of the prospective bidder concerned as "ineligible." In either case, the BAC chairperson or his duly designated authority shall countersign the markings.

9. Short Listing of Consultants

- 9.1. Only prospective bidders whose submitted contracts are similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid as provided in the EDS shall be considered for short listing.
- 9.2. The BAC shall draw up the short list of prospective bidders from those declared eligible using the detailed set of criteria and rating system to be used specified in the EDS.
- 9.3. Short listed consultants shall be invited to participate in the bidding for this project through a Notice of Eligibility and Short Listing issued by the BAC.

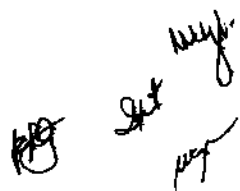
10. Protest Mechanism

Decision of the Procuring Entity at any stage of the procurement process may be questioned in accordance with Section 55 of the IRR of RA 9184.

Section III. Eligibility Data Sheet

Eligibility Data Sheet


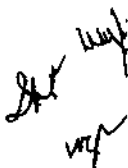
Eligibility Documents	
1.2	Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading – Re-Bidding
1.3	<p>The scope of persons/entities that shall be allowed to participate in the bidding for consultancy services shall <u>not</u> be limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; (b) Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; (c) Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; (d) Cooperatives duly organized under the laws of the Philippines; or (e) Persons/entities forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., a group of two (2) or more persons/entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest thereof shall be at least sixty percent (60%). For this purpose, Filipino ownership or interest shall be based on the contributions of each of the members of the joint venture as specified in their JVA. <p>In which case, the Procuring Entity shall be open to allow foreign consultants subject to Sections 24.3.3. and Section 37.1.4(a)(iv) of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 among others.</p>
2.	<p>Additional Eligibility of the Bidders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bidder must have been in the business for at least five (5) years from the date of opening of bids; 2. If the bidder had a contract with TESDA, prior the bid opening for this project, said bidder must have satisfactorily performed



Eligibility Documents	
	<p>its obligations without any adverse findings issued by competent authorities relative to the quality and cost of the goods supplied and delivered including period of delivery.</p> <p>3. Pursuant to Section 23.4.1.3. of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, which prescribes that the procuring entity may clarify in the Bidding Documents the definition or description of what it considers to be a similar project, a contract is similar to the contract to be bid if it involves goods of the same nature and complexity as those which are the subject of the public bidding concerned. In the case of this procurement, the consulting services subject of this public bidding pertains to procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001. As such, the consulting services covered under the completed single contract of the bidder which must be equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC must have the same major categories of consulting services subject of this public bidding for the said contract to qualify as a contract similar to the contract to be bid.</p> <p>4. The bidder must submit its clearances from the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Pag-IBIG Fund, Social Security System (SSS) and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) during the bid opening as part of the eligibility requirements. Said clearances must be issued within three (3) months from the date of the bid opening.</p>
2.1(a)(ii)	The statement of all ongoing and completed government and private contracts shall include all such contracts within five (5) years prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of eligibility documents.
2.1(a)(ii.7)	<i>State acceptable proof of satisfactory completion of completed contracts.</i>
4.2	Each prospective bidder shall submit one (1) original and three (3) copies of its eligibility documents.
(e)	<p>Atty. Diosdado O. Padilla. – Chairperson, BAC Technical Education and Skills Development Authority TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City Telefax: (02) 893-8296</p>
4.3(f)	Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-

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Eligibility Documents	
	Certification / Upgrading - Rebidding
5	<p>The address for submission of eligibility documents is:</p> <p>2nd Floor, CSA Conference Room TESDA Administration Building TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City</p> <p>The deadline for submission of eligibility documents is 11 August 2017 at 2:00 p.m.</p>
8.1	<p>The place of opening of eligibility documents is</p> <p>2nd Floor, CSA Conference Room TESDA Administration Building TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City</p> <p>The date and time of opening of eligibility documents is 11 August 2017 at 2:15 p.m.</p>
9.1	Similar contracts shall refer to the Procurement of Certification Services for ISO 9001.
9.2	<p>The numerical weights for each criterion is as follows:</p> <p>(a) Quality of personnel to be assigned to the Project – 30% (b) Experience and capability of the CONSULTANTS – 40% (c) Plan of approach and methodology – 30%</p> <p style="text-align: right;">100% (x 85%)</p> <p>The minimum St required to pass is 70%.</p>

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Section I. Notice of Eligibility and Short Listing

Date: _____

[Name and Address of Short Listed Consultant]

Dear _____:

1. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (hereinafter called "Procuring Entity" has received financing (hereinafter called "funds") from Government of the Republic of the Philippines through General Appropriations Act for FY 2017 (hereinafter called the "Funding Source") toward the cost of Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading - Rebidding. The Procuring Entity intends to apply a portion of the funds in the amount of One Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos Only (Php1,800,000.00) to eligible payments under the contract for Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading - Rebidding for which the Bidding Documents is issued.
2. The Procuring Entity now invites bids to provide the Consulting Services for Certification Services for ISO 9001:2015 Re-Certification / Upgrading - Rebidding. More details on the services are provided in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the project.
3. The Consultant shall be selected and employed in accordance with Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS) procedures as described in the Bidding Documents.
4. This notice has been addressed to the following short listed consultants:
[Insert list of short listed consultants]
5. It is not permissible for you to transfer this invitation to any other consultant.
6. The Bidding Documents may be acquired at BAC Secretariat, 3rd Floor, Procurement Division, TESDA Administration Building, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City during 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **02 August 2017** until **2:00 p.m. of 19 September 2017** upon payment of non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents, pursuant to the latest Guidelines issued by the GPPB, in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000.00).
7. The TESDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **31 August 2017** at **2:00 p.m.** at 2nd Floor, CSA Conference Room, TESDA Complex, East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway, Taguig City which shall be open to all short listed consultants.

Very truly yours,


ATTY. DIOSDADO O. PADILLA
BAC Chairperson

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Bidding Documents

Republic of the Philippines

**PROCUREMENT OF
CERTIFICATION
SERVICES FOR ISO
9001:2015
RE-CERTIFICATION /
UPGRADING
- RE-BIDDING**



Section II. Instructions to Bidders

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A. General

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Procuring Entity named in the Bid Data Sheet (**BDS**) shall select an individual, sole proprietorship, cooperative, partnership, corporation, or a joint venture (JV) (hereinafter referred to as "Consultant") from among those short listed, in accordance with the evaluation procedure specified in the **BDS**.
- 1.2. The Procuring Entity has received financing (hereinafter called "funds") from the source indicated in the **BDS** (hereinafter called the "Funding Source") toward the cost of the Project named in the **BDS**. The Procuring Entity intends to apply a portion or the whole of the funds to payments for this Project.
- 1.3. Consultants are invited to submit bids composed of a technical proposal and a financial proposal for Consulting Services required for this Project described in the **BDS**. Bids shall be the basis for contract negotiations and ultimately for a signed contract with the selected Consultant.
- 1.4. If the **BDS** indicates that the Project will be completed in phases, each phase must be completed to the Procuring Entity's satisfaction prior to the commencement of the next phase.
- 1.5. Consultants must familiarize themselves with local conditions and take them into account in preparing their bids. To obtain firsthand information on the project and on the local conditions, Consultants are encouraged to visit the Procuring Entity before submitting a bid and to attend the pre-bid conference specified in ITB Clause 7.
- 1.6. The Consultants' costs of preparing their bids and negotiating the contract, including a visit to the Procuring Entity, are not reimbursable as a direct cost of the project.
- 1.7. Consultants shall not be under a declaration of ineligibility for corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices issued by the Funding Source or the Procuring Entity in accordance with ITB Clause 3.1.

2. Conflict of Interest

- 2.1. The Funding Source's policy requires that Consultants provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Procuring Entity's interests paramount, without any consideration for future work, and strictly avoid situations where a conflict of interest shall arise with their other projects or their own interests. Consultants shall not be hired for any project that would be in conflict with their prior or current obligations to other entities, or that may place them in a

position of not being able to carry out the Project in the best interest of the Procuring Entity. Without limitation on the generality of this rule, Consultants shall not be hired under the circumstances set forth below:

- (k) If a Consultant combines the function of consulting with those of contracting and/or supply of equipment for the same Project;
- (l) If a Consultant is associated with, affiliated to, or owned by a contractor or a manufacturing firm with departments or design offices offering services as consultants unless such Consultant includes relevant information on such relationships along with a statement in the Technical Proposal cover letter to the effect that the Consultant shall limit its role to that of a consultant and disqualify itself and its associates from work in any other capacity that may emerge from the Project (including bidding for any part of the future project). The contract with the Consultant selected to undertake the Project shall contain an appropriate provision to such effect; or
- (m) If there is a conflict among consulting projects, the Consultant (including its personnel and subconsultants) and any subsidiaries or entities controlled by such Consultant shall not be recruited for the relevant project. The duties of the Consultant depend on the circumstances of each case. While continuity of consulting services may be appropriate in particular situations where no conflict exists, a Consultant cannot be recruited to carry out a project that, by its nature, shall result in conflict with a prior or current project of such Consultant. Examples of the situations mentioned are when a Consultant engaged to prepare engineering design for an infrastructure project shall not be recruited to prepare an independent environmental assessment for the same project; similarly, a Consultant assisting a Procuring Entity in privatization of public assets shall not purchase, nor advise purchasers, of such assets; or a Consultant hired to prepare Terms of Reference (TOR) for a project shall not be recruited for the project in question.

2.2. Consultants shall not be related to the Head of the Procuring Entity (HoPE), members of the BAC, the TWG, and the BAC Secretariat, the head of the PMO or the end-user unit, and the project consultants, by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree. The prohibition shall apply as follows:

- (a) If the Consultant is an individual or sole proprietorship, then to himself;
- (b) If the Consultant is a partnership, then to all its officers and members;
- (c) If the Consultant is a corporation, then to all its officers, directors and controlling stockholders;

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(d) If the Consultant is a cooperative, to all its officers, directors, and controlling shareholders or members; or

(e) If the Consultant is a JV, the provisions of items (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this Section shall correspondingly apply to each of the members of the said joint venture, as may be appropriate.

Relationship of the nature described above or a failure to comply with the provisions of this clause will result in the rejection of the Consultant's bid.

2.3. Subject to the provisions of ITB Clause 2, any previous or ongoing participation by the Consultant, its professional staff, or its affiliates or associates under a contract with the Funding Source or the Procuring Entity in relation to this Project may result in the rejection of its bid. Consultants should clarify their situation in that respect with the Procuring Entity before preparing its bid.

2.4. Failure by a Consultant to fully disclose potential conflict of interest at the time of Bid submission, or at a later date in the event that the potential conflict arises after such date, shall result in the Procuring Entity and/or the Funding Source seeking the imposition of the maximum administrative, civil and criminal penalties up to and including imprisonment.

2.5. Consultants are discouraged to include officials and employees of the Government of the Philippines (GoP) as part of its personnel. Participation of officials and employees of the GoP in the Project shall be subject to existing rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

2.6. Fairness and transparency in the selection process require that Consultants do not derive unfair competitive advantage from having provided consulting services related to the Project in question. To this end, the Procuring Entity shall make available to all the short listed consultants together with the Bidding Documents all information that would in that respect give each Consultant a competitive advantage.

3. Corrupt, Fraudulent, Collusive, Coercive, and Obstructive Practices

3.1. The Procuring Entity as well as the Consultants shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract. In pursuance of this policy, the Procuring Entity:

(a) defines, for purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:

(i) "corrupt practice" means behavior on the part of officials in the public or private sectors by which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, others, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they

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are placed, and includes the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value to influence the action of any such official in the procurement process or in contract execution; entering, on behalf of the GoP, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the same, whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby, and similar acts as provided in Republic Act 3019.

- (ii) "fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation of facts in order to influence a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Procuring Entity, and includes collusive practices among Bidders (prior to or after bid submission) designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels and to deprive the Procuring Entity of the benefits of free and open competition.
- (iii) "collusive practices" means a scheme or arrangement between two or more Bidders, with or without the knowledge of the Procuring Entity, designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels.
- (iv) "coercive practices" means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons, or their property to influence their participation in a procurement process, or affect the execution of a contract;
- (v) "obstructive practice" is
 - (aa) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to an administrative proceedings or investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede an administrative proceedings or investigation of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the administrative proceedings or investigation or from pursuing such proceedings or investigation; or
 - (bb) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the inspection and audit rights of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution herein.

(b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in any of the practices mentioned in this Clause for purposes of competing for the contract.

3.2. Further, the Procuring Entity will seek to impose the maximum civil, administrative, and/or criminal penalties available under applicable laws on individuals and organizations deemed to be involved in any of the practices mentioned in ITB Clause 3.1(a).

3.3. Furthermore, the Funding Source and the Procuring Entity reserve the right to inspect and audit records and accounts of a Consultant in the bidding for and performance of a contract themselves or through independent auditors as reflected in the GCC Clause 51.

4. Consultant's Responsibilities

4.1. The Consultant or its duly authorized representative shall submit a sworn statement in the form prescribed in Section VII. Bidding Forms as required in ITB Clause 10.2(d).

4.2. The Consultant is responsible for the following:

(a) Having taken steps to carefully examine all of the Bidding Documents;

(b) Having acknowledged all conditions, local or otherwise, affecting the implementation of the contract;

(c) Having made an estimate of the facilities available and needed for this Project, if any;

(d) Having complied with its responsibility to inquire or secure Supplemental/Bid Bulletin/s as provided under ITB Clause 8.4.

(e) Ensuring that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the GoP or any of its agencies, offices, corporations, or LGUs, including foreign government/foreign or international financing institution whose blacklisting rules have been recognized by the GPPB;

(f) Ensuring that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the bidding requirements is an authentic copy of the original, complete, and all statements and information provided therein are true and correct;

(g) Authorizing the Head of the Procuring Entity or its duly authorized representative/s to verify all the documents submitted;

(h) Ensuring that the signatory is the duly authorized representative of the Bidder, and granted full power and authority to do, execute and perform any and all acts necessary to participate, submit the bid, and to sign and execute the ensuing contract, accompanied by the duly notarized Special Power of Attorney, Board/Partnership Resolution, or Secretary's Certificate, whichever is applicable;

(i) Complying with the disclosure provision under Section 47 of RA 9184 and its IRR in relation to other provisions of Republic Act 3019;

(j) Complying with existing labor laws and standards, in the case of procurement of services. Moreover, bidder undertakes to:

- (i) Ensure the entitlement of workers to wages, hours of work, safety and health and other prevailing conditions of work as established by national laws, rules and regulations; or collective bargaining agreement; or arbitration award, if and when applicable.

In case there is a finding by the Procuring Entity or the DOLE of underpayment or non-payment of workers' wage and wage-related benefits, bidder agrees that the performance security or portion of the contract amount shall be withheld in favor of the complaining workers pursuant to appropriate provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 without prejudice to the institution of appropriate actions under the Labor Code, as amended, and other social legislations.

- (ii) Comply with occupational safety and health standards and to correct deficiencies, if any.

In case of imminent danger, injury or death of the worker, bidder undertakes to suspend contract implementation pending clearance to proceed from the DOLE Regional Office and to comply with Work Stoppage Order; and

- (iii) Inform the workers of their conditions of work, labor clauses under the contract specifying wages, hours of work and other benefits under prevailing national laws, rules and regulations; or collective bargaining agreement; or arbitration award, if and when applicable, through posting in two (2) conspicuous places in the establishment's premises; and

(k) Ensuring that it did not give or pay, directly or indirectly, any commission, amount, fee, or any form of compensation, pecuniary or otherwise, to any person or official, personnel or representative of the government in relation to any procurement project or activity.

Failure to observe any of the above responsibilities shall be at the risk of the Consultant concerned.

- 4.3. It shall be the sole responsibility of the prospective bidder to determine and to satisfy itself by such means as it considers necessary or desirable as to all matters pertaining to this Project, including: (a) the location and the nature of the contract, project, or work; (b) climatic conditions; (c) transportation facilities; (c) nature and condition of the

terrain, geological conditions at the site communication facilities, requirements, location and availability of construction aggregates and other materials, labor, water, electric power and access roads; and (d) other factors that may affect the cost, duration and execution or implementation of the contract, project, or work.

- 4.4. The Procuring Entity shall not assume any responsibility regarding erroneous interpretations or conclusions by the Consultant out of the data furnished by the Procuring Entity. However, the Procuring Entity shall ensure that all information in the Bidding Documents, including supplemental/bid bulletins issued are correct and consistent.
- 4.5. Before submitting their bids, the Consultants are deemed to have become familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the GoP which may affect the contract in any way.
- 4.6. The Consultant shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of his bid, and the Procuring Entity will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- 4.7. Consultants should note that the Procuring Entity will only accept bids from those that have paid the applicable fee for the Bidding Documents at the office indicated in the Request for Expression of Interest.

5. Origin of Associated Goods

Unless otherwise indicated in the **BDS**, there is no restriction on the origin of Goods other than those prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

6. Subcontracts

- 6.1. Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, the Consultant may subcontract portions of the Consulting Services to an extent as may be approved by the Procuring Entity and stated in the **BDS**. However, subcontracting of any portion shall not relieve the Consultant from any liability or obligation that may arise from the contract for this Project.
- 6.2. Subconsultant must comply with the eligibility criteria and the documentary requirements specified in the **BDS**. In the event that any subconsultant is found by the Procuring Entity to be ineligible, the subcontracting of such portion of the Consulting Services shall be disallowed.
- 6.3. The Consultant may identify the subconsultant to whom a portion of the Consulting Services will be subcontracted at any stage of the bidding process or during contract implementation. If the Consultant opts to disclose the name of the subconsultant during bid submission, the Consultant shall include the required documents as part of the technical component of its bid. A subconsultant that is identified by the

Consultant during contract implementation must comply with the eligibility criteria and documentary requirements and secure approval of the Procuring Entity.

B. Contents of Bidding Documents

7. Pre-Bid Conference

- 7.1. If so specified in the BDS, a pre-bid conference shall be held at the venue and on the date indicated therein, to clarify and address the Consultants' questions on the technical and financial components of this Project.
- 7.2. The pre-bid conference shall be held at least twelve (12) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids, but not earlier than seven (7) calendar days from the determination of the shortlisted consultants. If the Procuring Entity determines that, by reason of the method, nature, or complexity of the contract to be bid, or when international participation will be more advantageous to the GoP, a longer period for the preparation of bids is necessary, the pre-bid conference shall be held at least thirty (30) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.
- 7.3. Consultants are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to ensure that they fully understand the Procuring Entity's requirements. Non-attendance of the Consultant will in no way prejudice its bid; however, the Consultant is expected to know the changes and/or amendments to the Bidding Documents as recorded in the minutes of the pre-bid conference and the Supplemental/Bid Bulletin. The minutes of the pre-bid conference shall be recorded and prepared not later than five (5) calendar days after the pre-bid conference. The minutes shall be made available to prospective bidders not later than five (5) days upon written request.
- 7.4. Decisions of the BAC amending any provision of the bidding documents shall be issued in writing through a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.

8. Clarifications and Amendments to Bidding Documents

- 8.1. Shortlisted consultants may request for clarification(s) on and/or an interpretation of any part of the Bidding Documents. Such a request must be in writing and submitted to the Procuring Entity at the address indicated in the BDS at least ten (10) calendar days before the deadline set for the submission and receipt of bids.
- 8.2. The BAC shall respond to the said request by issuing a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin to be made available to all those who have

