

**Bid Clarifications and Responses to Queries from the Applicants**  
**on**  
**Nepal – Promotion of Solar Energy in Rural and Semi-urban Regions II (BMZ-NR.: 2019 69 203)**

**Bid Clarification No. 03**

No.	Document Reference	Applicants' Queries	Employer's Clarification
<b>Date of Request: 09.10.2024</b>			
1.	Section I. Bid Security	The invitation of bids requests: The bid security issued from a foreign bank shall be duly counter guaranteed by any reputed commercial bank of Nepal.  However, the formal bidding documents did not have such requirements. Please clarify if the "counter guarantee" it is a mandatory requirement	As defined in the Invitation for Bids and Clarification 1, No. 3.
2.	Invitation for Bids BDS- ITB 20.1 VS. ITB 19.2, 20.3 Form of bid security	In invitation of bids and BDS- ITB 20.1, the Bid Security validity period is 30 days; while in ITB 19.2, 20.3, Form of bid security, the validity period is 42 days.  Please clarify which one is correct?	As per ITB 20.1
3.	Bidding document BDS – ITB 22.1  Sealing and marking of bids	Add qualification documents.  Please clarify the scope of the qualification documents. Does it refer to Form ELI1.1 to Form PER-5.7 listed in page 67 for post- qualification?	Yes, correct
4.	ITB 23.1	Due to the National Holiday from 10/01-10/07 in China, the bidder would like to	No further extension allowed, remain as per existing deadline of 27 <sup>th</sup> September 2024.

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	Deadline for submission of bids	requests a 5 weeks' extension of the bid submission deadline, (from 9/06 to 10/11) for the purpose of better preparation of the bidding proposal.	
5.	Section IV Bidding Forms  Form FIN 3.1	The form has 5 columns marked with "year 1" to "year 5". However, the requirement in page 53 (Section III. Qualification and Evaluation, it requests 3 years' statements)  Please clarify how many year's data and financial statements shall be submitted?	page 53 of Section III. Qualification and Evaluation prevails. The attached Form FIN-3.1 is a template to be filled in.
6.	Section IV Bidding Forms  Schedules of Rates and Prices  Page 114	<i>"Please refer to separate Excel file(s)."</i>  Please provide the Excel version.	Kindly submit official email request to the Employer.
7.	Section VII Employers Requirement  Specification for ESHS works  Page 126	This section is marked with serial number "c)", please confirm there is no a) and b) for the bidder.  Please also noted that the header of this section is "Section VII. ESHS Requirements" however on page 125, the Section VII, should be "Employer's Requirements"	There is a) and b) in section VI  Noted
8.	Section VII ESHS requirement	This section comes after above content "c) Specifications for ESHS", and also with header of "Section VII. ESHS Requirements".	For the entire bidding documents

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	Personal Requirement Page 185	<p>While on page 43, (X10.) "Description of proposed Personnel as per Section IV, Bidding Forms" actually, there is no key position requirements in the bidding documents.</p> <p>Please clarify the "d) Personnel Requirements" is only for ESHS section or for the entire bidding documents?</p>	
9.	Section VII ESHS requirement  Employers Requirements Page 186	<p>Same issue as above.</p> <p>Please clarify the content structure of this section. is it a part of ESHS Requirements or is it a part of Technical bid?</p>	This content belongs to EHS management plan- equipment requirements as a part of ESHS requirements.
10.	Section VII ESHS requirement  Drawing Page 187	<p>Same issue as above.</p> <p>The serial number starts at No.2, but did not find No.1 The page header is "Section VII. ESHS Requirements"</p> <p>Please clarify the content structure of this section. is it a part of ESHS Requirements or is it a part of Technical bid?</p>	It is the ESHS part.
11.	Section VII ESHS requirement  Supplementary information	Same issue as above.	It is the ESHS part.

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	Page 188		
12.	Employer's Requirements  1.2 Procurement and Supply. -- clause.12 Page 16	<i>33 kV Under Ground Cable and Over Head Transmission Line including Poles, ..... substation as per NEA requirements including Right of Way, route permits and approvals.</i>  Please clarify the "Right of Way, route permits and approvals" falls into contractor's work scope or it belongs to Employer? And who bears the expense involved in the work.	Right of way, route permits, and approvals are provided by the Employer based on the survey and design report and joint check survey conducted by the Contractor and Employer. However, the survey expenses are to be taken care by the Contractor.
13.	Employer's Requirements  3 Grid Connection Page 32	The Bidder shall fulfil all applications, prepare the studies and testing procedures to complete the inter-connection process.  Please clarify the "Grid Connection application work" falls into contractor's work scope or it belongs to Employer? And who bears the expense involved in the work.	Preparation of grid connection studies, testing procedures, and applications, and related expenses are within the scope of the Contractor.
14.	Employer's Requirements  3 Grid Connection Page 32	<i>The Bidder is responsible for the following at a minimum:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Confirm proposed point of interconnection, ownership demarcation and location.</i></li> <li>• <i>Confirm transmission line ownership and operator control</i></li> </ul> Same as above, please clarify whether these works fall into contractor's work	Contractor has to propose the interconnection scheme, clarification as defined in above clarification no. 13.  The contractor is responsible for this until the completion of O&M stage and post that it will be handed over to the Employer.

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		scope or it belongs to Employer? And who bears the expense involved in the work.	
<b>Date of Request: 10.09.2024</b>			
15.	Bidding document	As this is a physical bid submission [hardcopies), please confirm whether the copied documents, such as company registration, experience certificates, etc., need to be notarized, or if self-certification will suffice.	Notarised documents are preferred by the bidder.
16.	Request for Extension	Additionally, since the preparation of the bid documents for this project is quite extensive, with numerous documents required to be submitted along with the bid, and considering the time needed for the preparation of the bid security and its counter guarantee, we kindly request an extension of the bid submission deadline by 30 days. This request is also made due to the upcoming holiday season and our partner's intention to physically visit for the submission.	Please refer to Question 4 of clarification 03.

No.	Document Reference	Applicants' Queries	Employer's Clarification
17.	Employers Requirement	Are the procedures for grid connection of photovoltaic power plants (including access plans, filing certificates, and electricity contracts) and related administrative approval procedures (involving forestry, cultural relics, military, environmental impact assessment, flood assessment, water conservation, etc.) within the scope of contracting?	Refer to question no. 13
18.	Employers Requirement	What are the acceptance criteria for site leveling, which is clearly specified in the owner's documents? According to the an-site pictures and relevant address conditions, it is difficult to level the site. On the one hand, it is difficult to construct, and on the other hand, it is difficult to determine the site area plan and acceptance standards, which will affect the final quotation.	A contractor needs to do the site survey and based on which the design for civil, electrical, and electronics (entire plant system) should be proposed to the Employer for the approval prior commencing the work.

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19.	Employers Requirement	<p>Can the term 'inverter transformer' mentioned in the employer's requirements be understood as a combination of an inverter and a step-up transformer for electrical purposes. The current conventional system design scheme in China is:</p> <p>a) Photovoltaic string generates DC power supply - DC combiner box - box inverter integrated machine (inverter+step-up transformer) - connected to 35KV line.</p> <p>b) Photovoltaic string generates DC power - string inverter - box type step-up transformer - connected to 35KV line.</p> <p>According to the document description, the project adopts "photovoltaic string to generate DC power supply - DC combiner box - inverter - step-up transformer - connected to 35KV line". It is recommended to optimize the plan as (2). High safety and reliability, low maintenance costs in the later stage.</p>	<p>The anticipated scheme is power generated from the solar panel goes to combiner box to string inverter to LT panel to transformer to HT panel and goes to substation via 33kV grade cable and/or transmission line.</p>

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20.	Section VII ESHS requirement	<p>Can the ESHS system mentioned in the bidding documents be the ISO 9001 quality management system, ISO 14001 environmental management system, and ISO 45001 occupational health and safety management system recognized by authoritative Chinese institutions.</p> <p>Does the employer agree to use the above management system certification.</p>	<p>The ISO certificates should be verified from recognized accredited companies or relevant institutions who have validate permit for ISO external audit and certification. For Chinese or any other countries in the world, the ISO certificates and ISO institutions should be listed in international ISO portals such as International Accreditation Forum (IAF) or similar.</p>
21.	Employers Requirement	<p>The local environmental wind speed mentioned in the bidding documents is 47 meters per second, and the wind resistance level for photovoltaic construction is 200km per hour. According to public information, Nepal does not have such a high wind speed level.</p>	<p>As per Section 7 (Employer's Requirement), Table No. 3, 4, 5</p>
22.	Employers Requirement	<p>The on-site photovoltaic module Installation area drawings provided by the employer do not indicate a scale. Can a scale be added to the drawings. Convenient selection and on-site layout drawings for photovoltaic panels.</p>	<p>Please consider the following scale for                      Gandak 1:4000                      MMHEP 1:1000                      Surkhet 1:1500</p>



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23.	Employer's Requirements  3 Grid Connection	Does the transmission line involve land acquisition and compensation issues? Can the line be designed based on the site conditions, whether it is required to be grounded or overhead? If there are issues with land acquisition and compensation, how should responsibilities be divided?	Refer to question no 14.
24.	Bidding document	Do all documents need to be notarized?, Do the English documents provided for the purchased products also need to be notarized by a third party? Is it necessary to bring original documents at the bid opening site for an-site verification.	Refer to Question no. 15.
			<b>Date of Submission: 17.09.2024</b>

Kuno Schallenberg  
GOPA-International Energy Consultants

