



Government of Liberia
MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT LIBERIA

RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

**CUSTOMIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A ROAD ASSET
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (RAMS) FOR LIBERIA**

Ref. No. 4A450/RP/013

Following the advertisement and issuance of the bidding document for the Procurement of **Customization and Implementation of a Road Asset Management System (RAMS) for Liberia**, a **Pre-Bid Conference was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 14:30 hrs. (Liberia time)**. Bidders were provided the opportunity to request clarifications related to the bidding document in writing. The deadline for receiving questions from the Bidders was on **Friday, February 12, 2020, 17:00 hrs. (Liberia time)**, while the deadline for MCA-Liberia to respond is **Thursday, February 20, 2020**.

The requests for clarifications from participants of a Pre-Bid Meeting held on **February 12, 2020**, including those that were received after the Pre-Bid Conference and responses are indicated below:

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#	Bidders' Queries	MCA-Liberia's Response
1	<p>Please confirm that two physical servers will need to be procured. One physical backup server implemented and <u>housed</u> at MPW, and the other, a <u>hosted</u> server in the cloud?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should the cloud server be hosted in Liberia, or can it be hosted outside of Liberia? 2. For the backup server to be <u>housed</u> in the MPW office, will a server rack be supplied by MPW? 3. Should the proposal for the backup server include a keyboard, mouse and display? 4. Will the MPW backup server room have sufficient network switches to connect into? 	<p>No. Only one physical server shall be procured. This is the server that will be the dedicated RAMS Server (HQ LAN to be installed at the Ministry of Public Works HQ).</p> <p>For the dedicated cloud server, the specifications are provided to ensure that the RAMS is operated from a compliant equipment. The bidder will need to provide evidence that this the case.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cloud server need not be hosted in Liberia but proof of reputable provider to be provided. 2. The backup server will be housed in the existing server rack at MPW 3. This server must be complete as per TOR specification and must include keyboard, mouse and 17" display.

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		4. MPW shall provide sufficient switches in the backup server to connect into.
2	Will the MPW provide backup power for the server (UPS)?	MPW server room standard backup power shall be used.
3	Does the MPW have the minimum network (1000/100Mbps) and internet bandwidth (10Mbps) for the connection between the servers (main and backup)?	This is confirmed. MPW is responsible for this provision. There is an existing bandwidth of 13 Mbps. The current network is being upgraded to the required performance.
4	<p>Will the connection between the MPW housed backup server and cloud server work via a VPN and Firewall?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is this service supplied by an external service provider and is a suitable service level agreement in place? • Who will be responsible for security? • How will this affect potential liability in GCC Clause 17.9? 	<p>Yes, the connection between the MPW housed backup server and cloud server will work through VPN and Firewall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cloud service shall be provided by the supplier. • The security of the RAMS on the backup server and the cloud-based servers by the supplier • The supplier is responsible for preventing security breach. In case this happens, the supplier shall conduct the necessary investigations to determine the root cause and remedy the problem within the terms of GCC 17.9.
5	<p>It is accepted that the backup server will be required to do full replication with cloud server.</p> <p>Please confirm if the backup server will do full replication with cloud server or only be used to store backups or if it will double as a fail-over node?</p>	Yes, confirmed.
6	What number of Windows Remote Desktop Licenses will be required?	Only one for the backup server.
10	Page 113 Section 4 Form TECH-3. Item 4.3.1 refers to the use of a Technical Responsiveness Checklist provided in Section F of the Technical Requirements, a requirement for tender responsiveness. A checklist is not evident in Section F. Please confirm the page number and title of this checklist.	<p><u>Please refer to Addendum #1.</u></p> <p>Refer to Task 3.3 for RAMS Technical and Functional Specifications.</p>
11	<p>Page 216 Terms & Schedule of Payment</p> <p><i>The payment terms to not specify whether the Purchaser shall make payments to the Supplier directly from MCC (USA) OR MCA Liberia. Please confirm whether the supplier will be paid from a US-based or Liberian-based bank account/entity.</i></p>	See the response below for item 12
12	Page 147, Caluse 12.3 Terms & Schedule of Payment	The Contract will be between MCA-Liberia (the Purchaser) and the Supplier. Refer GCC 1.1 (yy).

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	<p><i>The payment terms to not specify whether the Supplier is to invoice the MCC (USA) or the MCA-Liberia. Please confirm the entity to which the supplier will direct their invoices (i.e. Invoice a US-based entity or a Liberian-based entity).</i></p>	
13	<p>Page 148 Clause 13.3 Performance Security</p> <p><i>The performance bond requirement is an unusual requirement for a professional consulting business and therefore, other than in exceptional circumstances, Aurecon does not provide performance bonds. We offer our PI insurance as an alternative. We are insured by reputable insurers with adequate cover for claims brought against us based on our negligence. If our performance is not satisfactory, the client can institute a claim against our insurance.</i></p> <p><i>By issuing a performance security, we are giving an express guarantee regarding the execution of our services. PI Insurance covers consultants on the basis that in the event that the consultant is in breach of its professional service, that they will pay out the damages to the consultant or the client. The cause of the damages must in other words be related to the consultant's negligence. If we guarantee our services and we do not comply with the guarantee given, we are no longer in breach of our professional services, we will be in breach of a guarantee, which means that our PI insurance may not fully respond.</i></p> <p><i>We request the omission of any obligation to provide a performance security.</i></p>	<p>Since this involves supply and installation of software and hardware for the RAMS, Performance Security is required and must be in accordance with the requirements stated in GCC 13.3.2 (page 148) and in the format provided in Section VI. Particular Conditions of Contract (page 245).</p>
14	<p>Pg 148 Clause 13 Securities</p> <p><i>Clause 13 makes reference to the provision of securities in the form provided in the bidding documents. We are unable to locate further information on the requirements for an acceptable form of security. Please could you provide more detail on the definition of an acceptable form of security for the bid, advanced payment and performance securities.</i></p>	<p>The acceptable form of security is Bank Guarantee.</p>
15	<p>Page 148 Clause 13 Securities</p> <p><i>Please confirm whether an insurer-issued security would be acceptable in lieu of a bank-issued security.</i></p>	<p>No. It must be a Bank Guarantee.</p>
16	<p>Page 148 Clause 13 Securities</p>	<p>See the response below for item 17.</p>

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	<i>Please confirm whether the "Purchaser's country" is considered based in the USA or Liberia for the purposes of identifying the correspondent financial institution.</i>	
17	Page 148 Clause 13 Securities <i>Please confirm whether the advanced payment and performance securities must also be confirmed by a correspondent financial institution.</i>	Yes; A financial institution (issuing the Bank Guarantee) which is located outside the Beneficiary's country (Liberia) shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the Beneficiary's country (Liberia) to ensure the enforceability of the guarantee.
18	Page 268 2.1.: A requirement is that the system "must have been implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa". This would seem to limit competition to certain firms and restrict coemption from otherwise qualified firms. Is this a strict and mandatory requirement or how will it otherwise impact on tender scoring?	Bidders with no prior sub-Saharan experience are not prevented from bidding. However, experience in sub-Saharan Africa will be advantageous as reflected in the bid evaluation criteria at ITB 28.5.
19	Page 270 (8): "Web based video player" - Is this Street View support or other systems support e.g. Ubipix?	It is expected that video surveillance data of the Paved Road Management System and potentially the Unsealed Road Management System should be viewable through the RAMS
20	Page 272 (Task 1.4): "Any additional purchase of base maps shall be the responsibility of the Supplier". Can guidance be given on the expected base maps that will need to be purchased?	Specific maps to be agreed with client during implementation. The bidder shall make suitable provision for this in his quote based on his understanding of the technical requirements specified.
21	Page 274-275: Can samples of data on road condition, roughness, traffic data etc. be provided?	Full road condition, roughness and traffic data will be provided for the primary roads. Partial data will be provided for the secondary and feeder roads. No data collection is required as part of this project.
22	Page 276: Is it the expectation that the software will already include all required modules now? Where certain modules require development or customisation, how will this impact on scoring of a tender?	The system is expected to already have most of the mandatory modules or the optional modules, if offered. The client is seeking customisation of these modules and not new development. The only exceptions are the interfaces to ROMAPS and NRF Financial System for which the bidder will be scored on the basis of their proposals and not existing modules.
23	Page 278 Servers: For the Cloud Server, is the MPW open to configurations of Cloud hosting services that provide an equivalent service, as opposed to using a dedicated Cloud server, thereby losing the advantages of the Cloud in terms of elasticity?	MPW requires a dedicated Cloud server where absolute full control is guaranteed, and all service delivery risks mitigated.
24	Page 282 Road Location Referencing System (RLRS): Can a copy of the 'road referencing and classification system proposed by CARDNO IT' be provided at this stage?	This will be provided to the winning bidder.

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25	Page 294 (3. Execution Schedule): Is there flexibility in terms of project duration / completion date (Oct 14, 2020)?	It depends on the date of signing the Contract. The Project shall be implemented within 8 months from the commencement date and shall be completed in all respects before Compact End Date (CED), i.e., January 20, 2021. In no case the contract shall go beyond CED except for 1-year warranty period. The commencement date will be mutually agreed and shall be within 12 days from the date of signing the Contract.
26	Is it possible for MCA to sign separate agreements with each JV partner (if the JV wins)?	No. Please refer to Section I, ITB 5.5 of Bidding Document.
27	What facilities will be made available by the purchaser to the bidder? I.e. office space, conference facilities for training etc.	Facilities to be provided by the client are specified in GCC 10.12, page 216.
28	ITB 19.2 "If the bidder submitted a JV or consortium agreement or a letter of intent to execute same, Each partner in the JV or consortium shall submit the original copy of its Board resolution or certification from its Corporate Secretary (or equivalent Officer) duly notarised by a notary public (and duly authenticated by Liberia Consul if necessary". Are firms that are not physically present in Liberia mandated to obtain authentication from Liberia Consul or obtaining one from their country of origin will suffice?	Firms outside Liberia shall notarize their documents by an individual legally authorized to provide notary services in their Country of origin.
29	Is it possible for the MCA to extend the bid submission deadline for additional one week, considering the volume of bid requirements?	No extension of bid submission is being considered.
30	Bidding Forms: Is the Country of Origin Table in respect of goods to be procured only?	Yes.