

Section 1: Instructions to Bidders

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A. General

- 1. Scope of Bid**
- 1.1 In connection with the Invitation for Bids (IFB) indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS), the Employer, as indicated in the BDS, issues this Bidding Document for the procurement of Works as specified in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). The name, identification, and number of contracts of the open competitive bidding (OCB) are provided in the BDS.
- 1.2 Throughout this Bidding Document,
- (a) the term "in writing" means communicated in written form and delivered against receipt;
 - (b) except where the context requires otherwise, words indicating the singular also include the plural and words indicating the plural also include the singular; and
 - (c) "day" means calendar day.
- 2. Source of Funds**
- 2.1 The Employer as defined in section II, Bidding Data Sheet (BDS) has received a budget from RGoB towards the cost of the Project defined in the BDS and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for this works.
- 3. Fraud and Corruption**
- 3.1 It is RGoB's policy to require that Employers, Bidders, Suppliers, Contractors and their Subcontractors observe the highest standards of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, the RGoB:
- (a) defines, for the purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
 - (i) "corrupt practice" is the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (ii) "fraudulent practice" is any intentional act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
 - (iii) "collusive practice" is an arrangement between two or more parties designed to achieve an improper purpose, including to influence improperly the actions of another party;
 - (iv) "coercive practice" is impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence improperly the actions of a party;
 - (v) "obstructive practice" is
 - (aa) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to the investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede any investigation 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 investigation or from pursuing the investigation; or

(bb) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the inspection and audit rights of the Employer or any organization or person appointed by the Employer and/or any relevant RGoB agency provided for under ITB Sub-Clause 3.1 (d) below.

- (b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for the contract in question.
- (c) will sanction a firm or individual, including declaring them ineligible, either indefinitely or for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract if it at any time determines that they have, directly or through an agent, engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practices in competing for, or in executing contract;
- (d) will have the right to require that a provision be included in Bidding Documents and in contracts, requiring Bidders, Suppliers, Contractors and their Subcontractors to permit the Employer, any organization or person appointed by the Employer and/or any relevant RGoB agency to inspect their accounts and records and other documents relating to the Bid submission and contract performance and to have them audited by auditors appointed by the Employer;
- (e) requires that Bidders, as a condition of admission to eligibility, execute and attach to their bids an Integrity Pact Statement in the form provided in Section IV, Bidding Forms. Failure to provide a duly executed Integrity Pact Statement shall result in disqualification of the Bid; and
- (f) will report any case of corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive or obstructive practice to the relevant RGoB agencies, including but not limited to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Bhutan, for necessary action in accordance with the statutes and provisions of the relevant agency.

3.2. Furthermore, Bidders shall be aware of the provision stated in GCC Sub-Clause 60.1

4. Eligible Bidders

- 4.1 A Bidder may be a private entity, government-owned entity, subject to ITB sub-clause 4.4, or any combination of such entities in the form of a joint venture (JV) under an existing agreement or with the intent to enter into such an agreement supported by a letter of intent. In the case of a joint venture, all members shall be jointly and severally liable for the execution of the entire Contract in accordance with the Contract terms.

The JV shall nominate a Representative who shall have the authority to conduct all business for and on behalf of any and all the members of the JV during the Bidding process and, in the event the JV is awarded the Contract, during contract execution. Unless specified **in the BDS**, there is no limit on the number of members in a JV.

4.2 A Bidder may have the nationality of any country, subject to the restrictions pursuant to ITB 4.7. A Bidder shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Bidder is constituted, incorporated or registered in and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country, as evidenced by its articles of incorporation (or equivalent documents of constitution or association) and its registration documents, as the case may be. This criterion also shall apply to the determination of the nationality of proposed subcontractors or sub-consultants for any part of the Contract including related Services

4.3 A Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest. All Bidders found to have conflict of interest shall be disqualified. Bidders may be considered to have a conflict of interest with one or more parties in this bidding process, if:

- (a) they have at least one controlling partner in common; or
- (b) they receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from either party; or
- (c) they have the same authorized legal representative for purposes of this Bid; or
- (d) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the Bid of another Bidder, or influence the decisions of the Employer regarding this bidding process; or

a Bidder participates in more than one Bid in this bidding process. Participation by a Bidder in more than one Bid shall result in the disqualification of all Bids in which such Bidder is involved. However, this does not limit the inclusion of the same subcontractor in more than one Bid; or
- (e) a Bidder or any of its affiliates participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the Works that are the subject of the Bid or in any other way provided consulting services in any aspect of the preparatory stages leading up to the issue of these Bidding Documents; or
- (f) a Bidder or any of its affiliates has been hired (or is proposed to be hired) by the Employer as Project Manager for the Contract implementation; or
- (g) a Bidder or any of its affiliates employs or otherwise engages a close relative of a civil servant who either is employed by the Employer or has an authority over the bidder or its affiliates or over the bid. For the purposes of this Sub-Clause a close relative is defined as immediate family which includes father, mother, brother, sister, spouse and own children.

4.4 A Bidder that is determined to be ineligible pursuant to any of the provisions of this Bidding Document shall not be eligible to be awarded

a Contract.

- 4.5 Government-owned enterprises in Bhutan shall be eligible only if they can establish that they (i) are legally and financially autonomous, (ii) operate under commercial law, and (iii) are not a dependent agency of the Employer.
- 4.6 Bidders shall provide such evidence of their continued eligibility satisfactory to the Employer as the Employer shall reasonably request.
- 4.7 A firm shall be excluded if:
- (a) as a matter of law or official regulation, Bhutan prohibits commercial relations with the country in which the firm is constituted, incorporated or registered; or
 - (b) by an act of compliance with a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, Bhutan prohibits any import of goods or contracting of Works or services from that country in which the firm is constituted, incorporated or registered or any payments to persons or entities in that country.
- 4.8 A Bidder shall also be excluded if:
- (a) he is insolvent or is in receivership or is a bankrupt or is in the process of being wound up, or has entered into an arrangement with his creditors; or
 - (b) his business affairs are being administered by a court, judicial officer or appointed liquidator; or
 - (c) he has suspended business or is in any analogous situation arising from similar procedures under the laws and regulations of his country of establishment; or
 - (d) he has been found guilty of professional misconduct by a recognized tribunal or professional body; or
 - (e) he has not fulfilled his obligations with regard to the payment of taxes, social security or other payments due in accordance with the laws of the country in which he is established or of the Kingdom of Bhutan; or
 - (f) he is or has been guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying information required for any prior registration with the Employer or the Construction Development Board of Bhutan; or
 - (g) he has been convicted of fraud and/or corruption by a competent authority; or
 - (h) he has not fulfilled his contractual obligations with the Employer in the past; or
 - (i) he has been debarred from participation in public procurement by any competent authority as per law.

5. Eligible Materials, Equipment and

- 5.1 The materials, equipment, and services to be supplied under the Contract shall have their origin in eligible source countries as defined in ITB 4.2, and all expenditures under the Contract will be limited to

Services such materials, equipment, and services. At the Employer's request, Bidders may be required to provide evidence of the origin of materials, equipment, and services.

- 5.2 For purposes of ITB 5.1 above, "origin" means the place where the materials and equipment are mined, grown, produced, or manufactured, and from which the services are provided. Materials and equipment are produced when, through manufacturing, processing, or substantial or major assembling of components, a commercially recognized product results that differs substantially in its basic characteristics or in purpose or utility from its components.

B. Contents of Bidding Document

6. Sections of Bidding Document 6.1 The Bidding Document consist of Parts I, II, and III, which include all the sections indicated below, and should be read in conjunction with any addenda issued in accordance with ITB 8.

PART I Bidding Procedures

- Section 1 - Instructions to Bidders (ITB)
- Section 2 - Bid Data Sheet (BDS)
- Section 3 - Evaluation and Qualification Criteria (EQC)
- Section 4 - Bidding Forms (BDF)
- Section 5 - Eligible Countries (ELC)

PART II Requirements

- Section 6 - Employer's Requirements (ERQ)

PART III Conditions of Contract and Contract Forms

- Section 7 - General Conditions of Contract (GCC)
- Section 8 - Particular Conditions of Contract (PCC)
- Section 9 - Contract Forms (COF)

- 6.2 The IFB issued by the Employer is not part of the Bidding Document.
- 6.3 The Employer is not responsible for the completeness of the Bidding Document and their addenda, if they were not obtained directly from the source stated by the Employer in the IFB.
- 6.4 The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Document. Failure to furnish all information or documentation required by the Bidding Document may result in the rejection of the bid.

7. Clarification of Bidding Document, Site Visit, Pre-Bid Meeting 7.1 A prospective Bidder requiring any clarification on the Bidding Document shall contact the Employer in writing at the Employer's address indicated in the BDS or raise his inquiries during the pre-bid meeting if provided for in accordance with ITB 7.4. The Employer will respond in writing to any request for clarification, provided that such request is received no later than 10 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids. The Employer shall forward copies of its response to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3, including a description of the inquiry but without identifying its source. Should the Employer deem it necessary to amend the Bidding Document as a result of a request for clarification, it

shall do so following the procedure under ITB 8 and ITB 22.2.

- 7.2 The Bidder is advised to visit and examine the Site of Works and its surroundings and obtain for itself on its own responsibility all information that may be necessary for preparing the Bid and entering into a contract for construction of the Works. The costs of visiting the Site shall be at the Bidder's own expense.
- 7.3 The Bidder and any of its personnel or agents will be granted permission by the Employer to enter its premises and lands for the purpose of such visit, but only upon the express condition that the Bidder, its personnel, and agents will release and indemnify the Employer and its personnel and agents from and against all liability in respect thereof, and will be responsible for death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property, and any other loss, damage, costs, and expenses incurred as a result of the inspection.
- 7.4 The Bidder's designated representative is invited to attend a pre-bid meeting, if provided for in the BDS. The purpose of the meeting will be to clarify issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage.
- 7.5 The Bidder is requested to submit any questions in writing, to reach the Employer not later than 1 week before the meeting.
- 7.6 Minutes of the pre-bid meeting, including the text of the questions raised, without identifying the source, and the responses given, together with any responses prepared after the meeting, will be transmitted promptly to all Bidders who have acquired the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 6.3. Any modification to the Bidding Document that may become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting shall be made by the Employer exclusively through the issue of an addendum pursuant to ITB 8 and not through the minutes of the pre-bid meeting.
- 7.7 Nonattendance at the pre-bid meeting will not be a cause for disqualification of a Bidder.

- 8. Amendment of Bidding Document**
- 8.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of Bids, the Employer may amend the Bidding Document by issuing addenda.
- 8.2 Any addendum issued shall be part of the Bidding Document and shall be communicated in writing to all who have obtained the Bidding Document from the Employer in accordance with ITB 6.3.
- 8.3 To give prospective Bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their Bids, the Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Bids, pursuant to ITB 22.2

C. Preparation of Bids

- 9. Cost of Bidding**
- 9.1 The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of its Bid, and the Employer shall in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.
- 10. Language of Bid**
- 10.1 The Bid, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the bid exchanged by the Bidder and the Employer, shall be written in the language specified in the BDS. Supporting documents and printed literature that are part of the Bid may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in the language specified in the BDS, in which case, for purposes of interpretation of the Bid, such translation shall govern.
- 11. Documents Comprising the Bid**
- 11.1 The Bid shall comprise two envelopes submitted simultaneously, one called the Technical Bid containing the documents listed in ITB 11.2 and the other the Price Bid containing the documents listed in ITB 11.3, both envelopes enclosed together in an outer single envelope.
- 11.2 The Technical Bid shall comprise the following:
- (a) Letter of Technical Bid;
 - (b) Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, in accordance with ITB 19;
 - (c) alternative Bids, if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13;
 - (d) written confirmation authorizing the signatory of the Bid to commit the Bidder, in accordance with ITB 20.2;
 - (e) documentary evidence in accordance with ITB 17, establishing the Bidder's qualifications to perform the contract;
 - (f) Technical Proposal in accordance with ITB 16; and
 - (g) any other document required in the BDS.
- 11.3 The Price Bid shall comprise the following:
- (a) Letter of Price Bid;
 - (b) completed Price Schedules, in accordance with ITB 12 and ITB

- 14;
- (c) alternative price Bids, at Bidder's option and if permissible, in accordance with ITB 13; and
 - (d) any other document required in the BDS.
- 11.4 In addition to the requirements under ITB 11.2, Bids submitted by a Joint Venture shall include a copy of the Joint Venture Agreement entered into by all partners. Alternatively, a Letter of Intent to execute a Joint Venture Agreement in the event of a successful Bid shall be signed by all partners and submitted with the Bid, together with a copy of the proposed agreement.
- 12. Letters of Bid and Schedules**
- 12.1 The Letters of Technical Bid and Price Bid, and the Schedules, including the Bill of Quantities, shall be prepared using the relevant forms furnished in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The forms must be completed without any alterations to the text, and no substitutes shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested and as required in the BDS.
- 13. Alternative Bids**
- 13.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, alternative Bids shall not be considered.
- 13.2 When alternative times for completion are explicitly invited, a statement to that effect will be included in the BDS, as will the method of evaluating different times for completion.
- 13.3 Except as provided under ITB 13.4 below, Bidders wishing to offer technical alternatives to the requirements of the Bidding Document must first price the Employer's design as described in the Bidding Document and shall further provide all information necessary for a complete evaluation of the alternative by the Employer, including drawings, design calculations, technical specifications, breakdown of prices, and proposed construction methodology and other relevant details. Only the technical alternatives, if any, of the lowest evaluated Bidder conforming to the basic technical requirements shall be considered by the Employer.
- 13.4 When specified in the BDS, Bidders are permitted to submit alternative technical solutions for specified parts of the Works. Such parts will be identified in the BDS and described in Section 6 (Employer's Requirements). The method for their evaluation will be stipulated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 14. Bid Prices and Discounts**
- 14.1 The prices and discounts quoted by the Bidder in the Letter of Price Bid and in the Bill of Quantities shall conform to the requirements specified below.
- 14.2 The Bidder shall fill in rates and prices for all items of the Works described in the Bill of Quantities. Items against which no rate or price is entered by the Bidder will not be paid for by the Employer when executed and shall be deemed covered by the rates for other items and prices in the Bill of Quantities.

- 14.3 The price to be quoted in the Letter of Price Bid, in accordance with ITB 12.1, shall be the total price of the Bid, excluding any discounts offered. Absence of the total bid price in the Letter of Price Bid may result in the rejection of the Bid.
- 14.4 The Bidder shall quote any discounts and the methodology for their application in the Letter of Price Bid, in accordance with ITB 12.1.
- 14.5 The prices shall be either fixed or adjustable as specified in the BDS.
- (a) In the case of Fixed Price, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed during the Bidder's performance of the contract and not subject to variation on any account. A Bid submitted with an adjustable price will be treated as nonresponsive and rejected.
- (b) In the case of Adjustable Price, prices quoted by the Bidder shall be subject to adjustment during performance of the contract to reflect changes in the cost elements such as labor, material, transport, and contractor's equipment in accordance with the provisions of the Conditions of Contract. A Bid submitted with a fixed price will be treated as nonresponsive and be rejected. The Bidder shall furnish the indexes and weightings for the price adjustment formulas in the Tables of Adjustment Data included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) and the Employer may require the Bidder to justify its proposed indexes and weightings. Any bid that omits indexes and weightings shall be subject to clarification with the Bidder.
- 14.6 If so indicated in ITB 1.1, bids are being invited for individual contracts or for any combination of contracts (packages). Bidders wishing to offer any price reduction for the award of more than one Contract shall specify in their bid the price reductions applicable to each package, or alternatively, to individual Contracts within the package. Price reductions or discounts shall be submitted in accordance with ITB 14.4, provided the Bids for all contracts are submitted and opened at the same time.
- 14.7 All duties, taxes, and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, as of the date 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids, shall be included in the rates and prices and the total Bid Price submitted by the Bidder.
- 15. Currencies of Bid and Payment**
- 15.1 The unit rates and the prices shall be quoted by the Bidder entirely in the currency specified in the BDS.
- 15.2 Bidders shall indicate the portion of the bid price that corresponds to expenditures incurred in the currency of the Employer's country in the Schedule of Payment Currencies included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).
- 15.3 Bidders expecting to incur expenditures in other currencies for inputs to the Works supplied from outside the Employer's country and wishing to be paid accordingly may indicate the other currencies in the

Schedule of Payment Currencies included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).

- 15.4 The rates of exchange to be used by the Bidder for currency conversion during bid preparation shall be the selling rates for similar transactions prevailing on the date 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids published by the source specified in the BDS. If exchange rates are not so published for certain currencies, the Bidder shall state the rates used and the source. Bidders should note that for the purpose of payments, the exchange rates confirmed by the source specified in the BDS as the selling rates prevailing 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of Bids shall apply for the duration of the Contract so that no currency exchange risk is borne by the Bidder.
- 15.5 Foreign currency requirements indicated by the Bidders in the Schedule of Payment Currencies shall include but not limited to the specific requirements for
- (a) expatriate staff and labor employed directly on the Works;
 - (b) social, insurance, medical and other charges relating to such expatriate staff and labor, and foreign travel expenses;
 - (c) imported materials, both temporary and permanent, including fuels, oil and lubricants required for the Works;
 - (d) depreciation and usage of imported Plant and Contractor's Equipment, including spare parts, required for the Works;
 - (e) foreign insurance and freight charges for imported materials, Plant and Contractor's Equipment, including spare parts; and
 - (f) overhead expenses, fees, profit, and financial charges arising outside the Employer's country in connection with the Works.
- 15.6 Bidders may be required by the Employer to clarify their foreign currency requirements, and to substantiate that the amounts included in the unit rates and prices and shown in the Schedule of Payment Currencies are reasonable and responsive to ITB 15.3 above, in which case a detailed breakdown of its foreign currency requirements shall be provided by the Bidder.
- 15.7 Bidders should note that during the progress of the Works, the foreign currency requirements of the outstanding balance of the Contract Price may be adjusted by agreement between the Employer and the Contractor in order to reflect any changes in foreign currency requirements for the Contract, in accordance with **Subclause 14.15 of the Conditions of Contract**. Any such adjustment shall be effected by comparing the percentages quoted in the bid with the amounts already used in the Works and the Contractor's future needs for imported items.

**16. Documents
Comprising
the
Technical
Proposal**

- 16.1 The Bidder shall furnish a Technical Proposal including a statement of work methods, equipment, personnel, schedule, and any other information as stipulated in Section 4 (Bidding Forms), in sufficient detail to demonstrate the adequacy of the Bidders' proposal to meet the work requirements and the completion time.

- 17. Documents Establishing the Qualifications of the Bidder**
- 17.1 To establish its qualifications to perform the Contract in accordance with Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria) the Bidder shall provide the information requested in the corresponding information sheets included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms).
- 17.2 Domestic Bidders, individually or in Joint Ventures, applying for eligibility for domestic preference shall supply all information required to satisfy the criteria for eligibility as described in ITB 36.
- 18. Period of Validity of Bids**
- 18.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS after the bid submission deadline date prescribed by the Employer. A bid valid for a shorter period shall be rejected by the Employer as nonresponsive.
- 18.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the bid validity period, the Employer may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their Bids. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. If a bid security is requested in accordance with ITB 19, it shall also be extended 28 days beyond the deadline of the extended validity period. A Bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting its bid security. A Bidder granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its Bid.
- 19. Bid Security/Bid-Securing Declaration**
- 19.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the Bidder shall furnish as part of its Bid, in original form, either a Bid-Securing Declaration or a bid security as specified in the BDS. In the case of a bid security, the amount and currency shall be as specified in the BDS.
- 19.2 If a Bid-Securing Declaration is required pursuant to ITB 19.1, it shall use the form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms). The Employer will declare a Bidder ineligible to be awarded a Contract for a specified period of time, as indicated in the BDS, if the Bid-Securing Declaration is executed.
- 19.3 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the bid security shall be, at the Bidder's option, in any of the following forms:
- (a) an unconditional bank guarantee,
 - (b) an irrevocable letter of credit,
 - (c) a cashier's or certified check, or
 - (d) SWIFT message in the form of MT760.
- all from a reputable source from an eligible country as described in Section 5 (Eligible Countries). In the case of a bank guarantee, the bid security shall be submitted either using the Bid Security Form included in Section 4 (Bidding Forms) or another form acceptable to the Employer. The form must include the complete name of the Bidder. The bid security shall be valid for 28 days beyond the original validity period of the bid, or beyond any period of extension if requested under ITB 18.2.
- 19.4 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, any Bid not accompanied by a substantially compliant bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if one

is required in accordance with ITB 19.1, shall be rejected by the Employer as nonresponsive.

- 19.5 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the bid security of unsuccessful Bidders shall be returned promptly upon the successful Bidder's furnishing of the performance security pursuant to ITB 45.
- 19.6 If a bid security is specified pursuant to ITB 19.1, the bid security of the successful Bidder shall be returned promptly once the successful Bidder has signed the Contract and furnished the required performance security.
- 19.7 The bid security may be forfeited or the Bid Securing Declaration executed, if
- (a) notwithstanding ITB 24.3, a Bidder withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Letters of Technical Bid and Price Bid, except as provided in ITB 18.2; or
 - (b) the successful Bidder fails to
 - (i) sign the Contract in accordance with ITB 44;
 - (ii) furnish a performance security in accordance with ITB 45;
 - (iii) accept the arithmetical correction of its Bid in accordance with ITB 34; or
 - (iv) furnish a domestic preference security, if so required.
- 19.8 If the bid security is required as per ITB 19.1, the bid security of a Joint Venture shall be in the name of the Joint Venture that submits the Bid. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the bid security shall be in the name of any or all of the Joint Venture partners. If the Bid-Securing Declaration is required as per ITB 19.1, the Bid-Securing Declaration of a Joint Venture shall be in the name of the Joint Venture that submits the Bid. If the Joint Venture has not been legally constituted at the time of bidding, the Bid-Securing Declaration shall be in the names of all future partners as named in the letter of intent mentioned in ITB 4.1.

20. Format and Signing of Bid

- 20.1 The Bidder shall prepare one original set of the Technical Bid and one original set of the Price Bid comprising the Bid as described in ITB 11 and clearly mark it "ORIGINAL - TECHNICAL BID" and "ORIGINAL - PRICE BID." Alternative Bids, if permitted in accordance with ITB 13, shall be clearly marked "ALTERNATIVE." In addition, the Bidder shall submit copies of the Technical and Price Bids, in the number specified in the BDS, and clearly mark each of them "COPY." In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.
- 20.2 The original and all copies of the Bid shall be typed or written in indelible ink and shall be signed by a person duly authorized to sign on behalf of the Bidder. This authorization shall consist of a written confirmation as specified in the BDS and shall be attached to the bid. The name and position held by each person signing the authorization must be typed or printed below the signature. If a Bidder submits a deficient authorization, the Bid shall not be rejected in the first

instance. The Employer shall request the Bidder to submit an acceptable authorization within the number of days as specified in the BDS. Failure to provide an acceptable authorization within the period as stated in the Employer's request shall cause the rejection of the Bid. If either the Letter of Technical Bid or Letter of Price Bid or Bid-Securing Declaration (if applicable) is not signed, the Bid shall be rejected.

- 20.3 Any amendments such as interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the person signing the Bid.

D. Submission and Opening of Bids

21. Sealing and Marking of Bids

- 21.1 Bidders may always submit their Bids by post or by hand. When so specified in the BDS, Bidders shall have the option of submitting their Bids electronically. Procedures for submission, sealing, and marking are as follows:

- (a) Bidders submitting Bids by post or by hand shall enclose the original of the Technical Bid, the original of the Price Bid, and each copy of the Technical Bid and each copy of the Price Bid, in separate sealed envelopes, duly marking the envelopes as "ORIGINAL - TECHNICAL BID," "ORIGINAL - PRICE BID," and "COPY NO... - TECHNICAL BID" and "COPY NO.... - PRICE BID." These envelopes, the first containing the originals and the others containing copies, shall then be enclosed in one single envelope per set. If permitted in accordance with ITB 13, alternative Bids shall be similarly sealed, marked and included in the sets. The rest of the procedure shall be in accordance with ITB 21.2 and ITB 21.5.
- (b) Bidders submitting Bids electronically shall follow the electronic bid submission procedures specified in the BDS.

- 21.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall

- (a) bear the name and address of the Bidder;
- (b) be addressed to the Employer in accordance with BDS 22.1; and
- (c) bear the specific identification of this bidding process indicated in the BDS 1.1.

- 21.3 The outer envelopes and the inner envelopes containing the Technical Bid shall bear a warning not to open before the time and date for the opening of Technical Bid, in accordance with ITB 25.1.

- 21.4 The inner envelopes containing the Price Bid shall bear a warning not to open until advised by the Employer in accordance with ITB 25.7.

- 21.5 If all envelopes are not sealed and marked as required, the Employer will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the Bid.

- 22. Deadline for Submission of Bids**
- 22.1 Bids must be received by the Employer at the address and no later than the date and time indicated in the BDS.
- 22.2 The Employer may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of Bids by amending the Bidding Document in accordance with ITB 8, in which case all rights and obligations of the Employer and Bidders previously subject to the deadline shall thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.
- 23. Late Bids**
- 23.1 The Employer shall not consider any Bid that arrives after the deadline for submission of bids, in accordance with ITB 22. Any bid received by the Employer after the deadline for submission of Bids shall be declared late, rejected, and returned unopened to the Bidder.
- 24. Withdrawal, Substitution, and Modification of Bids**
- 24.1 A Bidder may withdraw, substitute, or modify its Bid – Technical or Price – after it has been submitted by sending a written notice, duly signed by an authorized representative, and shall include a copy of the authorization in accordance with ITB 20.2 (except for withdrawal notices, which do not require copies). The corresponding substitution or modification of the Bid must accompany the respective written notice. All notices must be
- (a) prepared and submitted in accordance with ITB 20 and ITB 21 (except for withdrawal notices, which do not require copies), and in addition, the respective envelopes shall be clearly marked “WITHDRAWAL,” “SUBSTITUTION,” “MODIFICATION”; and
 - (b) received by the Employer no later than the deadline prescribed for submission of Bids, in accordance with ITB 22.
- 24.2 Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with ITB 24.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders.
- 24.3 No Bid may be withdrawn, substituted, or modified in the interval between the deadline for submission of Bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Letters of Technical Bid and Price Bid or any extension thereof.
- 25. Bid Opening**
- 25.1 The Employer shall open the Technical Bids in public at the address, on the date and time specified in the BDS in the presence of Bidders` designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend. Any specific electronic bid opening procedures required if electronic bidding is permitted in accordance with ITB 21.1, shall be as specified in the BDS. The Price Bids will remain unopened and will be held in custody of the Employer until the specified time of their opening. If the Technical Bid and the Price Bid are submitted together in one envelope, the Employer may reject the entire Bid. Alternatively, the Price Bid may be immediately resealed for later evaluation.
- 25.2 First, envelopes marked “WITHDRAWAL” shall be opened and read out and the envelope with the corresponding Bid shall not be opened, but returned to the Bidder. No bid withdrawal shall be permitted unless the corresponding withdrawal notice contains a valid authorization to

request the withdrawal and is read out at bid opening.

- 25.3 Second, outer envelopes marked "SUBSTITUTION" shall be opened. The inner envelopes containing the Substitution Technical Bid and/or Substitution Price Bid shall be exchanged for the corresponding envelopes being substituted, which are to be returned to the Bidder unopened. Only the Substitution Technical Bid, if any, shall be opened, read out, and recorded. Substitution Price Bid will remain unopened in accordance with ITB 25.1. No envelope shall be substituted unless the corresponding substitution notice contains a valid authorization to request the substitution and is read out and recorded at bid opening.
- 25.4 Next, outer envelopes marked "MODIFICATION" shall be opened. No Technical Bid and/or Price Bid shall be modified unless the corresponding modification notice contains a valid authorization to request the modification and is read out and recorded at the opening of Technical Bids. Only the Technical Bids, both Original as well as Modification, are to be opened, read out, and recorded at the opening. Price Bids, both Original as well as Modification, will remain unopened in accordance with ITB 25.1.
- 25.5 All other envelopes holding the Technical Bids shall be opened one at a time, and the following read out and recorded:
- (a) the name of the Bidder;
 - (b) whether there is a modification or substitution;
 - (c) the presence of a bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if required; and
 - (d) any other details as the Employer may consider appropriate.
- Only Technical Bids and alternative Technical Bids read out and recorded at bid opening shall be considered for evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all pages of the Letter of Technical Bid are to be initialed by at least three representatives of the Employer attending bid opening. No Bid shall be rejected at the opening of Technical Bids except for late bids, in accordance with ITB 23.1.
- 25.6 The Employer shall prepare a record of the opening of Technical Bids that shall include, as a minimum, the name of the Bidder and whether there is a withdrawal, substitution, or modification; alternative proposals; and the presence or absence of a bid security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if one was required. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Bidder's signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Bidders who submitted Bids on time, and posted online when electronic bidding is permitted.
- 25.7 At the end of the evaluation of the Technical Bids, the Employer will invite bidders who have submitted substantially responsive Technical Bids and who have been determined as being qualified for award to attend the opening of the Price Bids. The date, time, and location of the opening of Price Bids will be advised in writing by the Employer.

Bidders shall be given reasonable notice of the opening of Price Bids.

- 25.8 The Employer will notify Bidders in writing who have been rejected on the grounds of their Technical Bids being substantially nonresponsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document and return their Price Bids unopened.
- 25.9 The Employer shall conduct the opening of Price Bids of all Bidders who submitted substantially responsive Technical Bids, in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, on the date, and time specified by the Employer. The Bidder's representatives who are present shall be requested to sign a register evidencing their attendance.
- 25.10 All envelopes containing Price Bids shall be opened one at a time and the following read out and recorded:
- (a) the name of the Bidder;
 - (b) whether there is a modification or substitution;
 - (c) the Bid Prices, including any discounts and alternative offers; and
 - (d) any other details as the Employer may consider appropriate.

Only Price Bids discounts, and alternative offers read out and recorded during the opening of Price Bids shall be considered for evaluation. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, all pages of the Letter of Price Bid and Bill of Quantities are to be initialed by at least three representatives of the Employer attending bid opening. No Bid shall be rejected at the opening of Price Bids.

- 25.11 The Employer shall prepare a record of the opening of Price Bids that shall include, as a minimum, the name of the Bidder, the Bid Price (per lot if applicable), any discounts, and alternative offers. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall be requested to sign the record. The omission of a Bidder's signature on the record shall not invalidate the contents and effect of the record. A copy of the record shall be distributed to all Bidders who submitted Bids on time, and posted online when electronic bidding is permitted.

E. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

- 26. Confidentiality** 26.1 Information relating to the examination, evaluation, comparison, and post-qualification of Bids and recommendation of contract award, shall not be disclosed to Bidders or any other persons not officially concerned with such process until information on the Contract award is communicated to all Bidders.
- 26.2 Any attempt by a Bidder to influence the Employer in the evaluation of the Bids or Contract award decisions may result in the rejection of its Bid.

- 26.3 Notwithstanding ITB 26.2, from the time of bid opening to the time of Contract award, if any Bidder wishes to contact the Employer on any matter related to the bidding process, it may do so in writing.
- 27. Clarification of Bids**
- 27.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation, and comparison of the Technical and Price Bids, the Employer may, at its discretion, ask any Bidder for a clarification of its Bid. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder that is not in response to a request by the Employer shall not be considered. The Employer's request for clarification and the response shall be in writing. No change in the substance of the Technical Bid or prices in the Price Bid shall be sought, offered, or permitted, except to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the Employer in the evaluation of the Price Bids, in accordance with ITB 34.
- 27.2 If a Bidder does not provide clarifications of its Bid by the date and time set in the Employer's request for clarification, its Bid may be rejected.
- 28. Deviations, Reservations, and Omissions**
- 28.1 During the evaluation of Bids, the following definitions apply:
- (a) "Deviation" is a departure from the requirements specified in the Bidding Document;
 - (b) "Reservation" is the setting of limiting conditions or withholding from complete acceptance of the requirements specified in the Bidding Document; and
 - (c) "Omission" is the failure to submit part or all of the information or documentation required in the Bidding Document.
- 29. Examination of Technical Bids**
- 29.1 The Employer shall examine the Technical Bid to confirm that all documents and technical documentation requested in ITB 11.2 have been provided, and to determine the completeness of each document submitted.
- 29.2 The Employer shall confirm that the following documents and information have been provided in the Technical Bid. If any of these documents or information is missing, the offer shall be rejected.
- (a) Letter of Technical Bid;
 - (b) written confirmation of authorization to commit the Bidder;
 - (c) Bid Security or Bid-Securing Declaration, if applicable; and
 - (d) Technical Proposal in accordance with ITB 16.
- 30. Responsiveness of Technical Bid**
- 30.1 The Employer's determination of a Bid's responsiveness is to be based on the contents of the bid itself, as defined in ITB11.
- 30.2 A substantially responsive Technical Bid is one that meets the requirements of the Bidding Document without material deviation, reservation, or omission. A material deviation, reservation, or omission is one that,

- (a) if accepted, would:
 - (i) affect in any substantial way the scope, quality, or performance of the Works specified in the Contract; or
 - (ii) limit in any substantial way, inconsistent with the Bidding Document, the Employer's rights or the Bidder's obligations under the proposed Contract; or
 - (b) if rectified, would unfairly affect the competitive position of other Bidders presenting substantially responsive Bids.
- 30.3 The Employer shall examine the technical aspects of the Bid submitted in accordance with ITB 16, Technical Proposal, in particular, to confirm that all requirements of Section 6 (Employer's Requirements) have been met without any material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 30.4 If a Bid is not substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Document, it shall be rejected by the Employer and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction of the material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 31. Nonmaterial Nonconformities**
- 31.1 Provided that a Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may waive any nonconformities in the Bid that do not constitute a material deviation, reservation, or omission.
- 31.2 Provided that a Technical Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer may request that the Bidder submit the necessary information or documentation, within a reasonable period of time, to rectify nonmaterial nonconformities in the Technical Bid related to documentation requirements. Requesting information or documentation on such nonconformities shall not be related to any aspect of the Price Bid. Failure of the Bidder to comply with the request may result in the rejection of its Bid.
- 31.3 Provided that a Technical Bid is substantially responsive, the Employer shall rectify quantifiable nonmaterial nonconformities related to the Bid Price. To this effect, the Bid Price shall be adjusted, for comparison purposes only, to reflect the price of a missing or non-conforming item or component. The adjustment shall be made using the method indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 32. Qualification of the Bidder**
- 32.1 The Employer shall determine to its satisfaction during the evaluation of Technical Bids whether Bidders meet the qualifying criteria specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).
- 32.2 The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted by the Bidder, pursuant to ITB 17.1.
- 32.3 An affirmative determination shall be a prerequisite for the opening and evaluation of a Bidder's Price Bid. A negative determination shall result into the disqualification of the Bid, in which event the Employer shall return the unopened Price Bid to the Bidder.

- 33. Subcontractors**
- 33.1 Unless otherwise stated in the BDS, the Employer does not intend for the contractor to execute any specific elements of the Works through nominated subcontractors.
- 33.2 If subcontractors are proposed for any of the key activities listed in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification) Criteria 2.4.2, they shall be considered as “Specialist Subcontractors” and shall meet qualification requirements for the relevant key activities.
- 34. Correction of Arithmetical Errors**
- 34.1 During the evaluation of Price Bids, the Employer shall correct arithmetical errors on the following basis:
- (a) If there is a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price that is obtained by multiplying the unit price and quantity, the unit price shall prevail and the total price shall be corrected, unless in the opinion of the Employer there is an obvious misplacement of the decimal point in the unit price, in which case the total price as quoted shall govern and the unit price shall be corrected.
 - (b) If there is an error in a total corresponding to the addition or subtraction of subtotals, the subtotals shall prevail and the total shall be corrected.
 - (c) If there is a discrepancy between the bid price in the Summary of Bill of Quantities and the bid amount in item (c) of the Letter of Price Bid, the bid price in the Summary of Bill of Quantities will prevail and the bid amount in item (c) of the Letter of Price Bid will be corrected.
 - (d) If there is a discrepancy between words and figures, the amount in words shall prevail, unless the amount expressed in words is related to an arithmetic error, in which case the amount in figures shall prevail subject to (a), (b) and (c) above.
- 34.2 If the Bidder that submitted the lowest evaluated bid does not accept the correction of errors, its Bid shall be disqualified and its bid security may be forfeited or its Bid-Securing Declaration executed.
- 35. Conversion to Single Currency**
- 35.1 For evaluation and comparison purposes, the currency(ies) of the Bid shall be converted into a single currency as specified in the BDS.
- 36. Domestic Preference**
- 36.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, domestic preference shall not apply.
- 37. Evaluation and Comparison of Price Bids**
- 37.1 The Employer shall use the criteria and methodologies listed in this Section 3, Evaluation and Qualification criteria. No other evaluation criteria or methodologies shall be permitted.
- 37.2 To evaluate the Price Bid, the Employer shall consider the following:
- (a) the bid price, excluding Provisional Sums and the provision, if any, for contingencies in the Summary Bill of Quantities, but including Daywork items, where priced competitively;

- (b) price adjustment for correction of arithmetic errors in accordance with ITB 34.1;
- (c) price adjustment due to discounts offered in accordance with ITB 14.4;
- (d) converting the amount resulting from applying (a) to (c) above, if relevant, to a single currency in accordance with ITB 35;
- (e) adjustment for nonmaterial nonconformities in accordance with ITB 31.3;
- (f) assessment whether the bid is abnormally low in accordance with ITB 38; and
- (g) application of all the evaluation factors indicated in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

37.3 The estimated effect of the price adjustment provisions of the Conditions of Contract, applied over the period of execution of the Contract, shall not be taken into account in bid evaluation.

37.4 If this Bidding Document allows Bidders to quote separate prices for different contracts, and the award to a single Bidder of multiple contracts, the methodology to determine the lowest evaluated price of the contract combinations, including any discounts offered in the Letter of Price Bid, is specified in Section 3 (Evaluation and Qualification Criteria).

37.5 The Employer shall compare all substantially responsive Bids to determine the lowest evaluated Bid price, in accordance with ITB 37.2.

38. Abnormally Low bids

38.1 An abnormally low bid is one where the bid price, in combination with other elements of the bid, appears to be so low that it raises concerns as to the capability of the Bidder to perform the contract for the offered bid price.

38.2 When the offered bid price appears to be abnormally low, the Employer shall undertake a three-step review process as follows:

- (a) identify abnormally low costs and unit rates by comparing them with the engineer's estimates, other substantially responsive bids, or recently awarded similar contracts;
- (b) clarify and analyze the bidder's resource inputs and pricing, including overheads, contingencies and profit margins; and
- (c) decide whether to accept or reject the bid.

38.3 With regard to ITB 38.2 (b) above, the Employer will seek a written explanation from the bidder of the reasons for the offered bid price, including a detailed analysis of costs and unit prices, by reference to the scope, proposed methodology, schedule, and allocation of risks and responsibilities. This may also include information regarding the economy of the manufacturing process; the services to be provided, or the construction method to be used; the technical solutions to be adopted; and any exceptionally favorable conditions available to the bidder for the works, equipment or services proposed.

38.4 After examining the explanation given and the detailed price analyses

presented by the bidder, the Employer may:

- (a) accept the bid, if the evidence provided satisfactorily accounts for the low bid price and costs, in which case the bid is not considered abnormally low;
- (b) accept the bid, but require that the amount of the performance security be increased at the expense of the bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Employer against financial loss. The amount of the performance security shall generally be not more than 30% of the contract price; or
- (c) reject the bid if the evidence provided does not satisfactorily account for the low bid price, and make a similar determination for the next ranked bid, if required.

39. Unbalanced or Front-Loaded Bids

39.1 If the Bid, which results in the lowest evaluated Bid Price, is seriously unbalanced or front-loaded in the opinion of the Employer, the Employer may require the Bidder to produce detailed price analyses for any or all items of the Bill of Quantities, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the construction methods and schedule proposed, as well as the pricing and sources of materials, equipment and labor.

39.2 After the evaluation of the information and detailed price analyses presented by the Bidder, the Employer may as appropriate:

- (a) accept the Bid; or
- (b) accept the Bid, but require that the total amount of the Performance Security be increased at the expense of the Bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Employer against financial loss in the event of default of the successful Bidder under the Contract subject to ITB 45.2; or
- (c) reject the Bid and make a similar determination for the next ranked bid.

40. Employer's Right to Accept Any Bid, and to Reject Any or All Bids

40.1 The Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to Bidders. In case of annulment, all Bids submitted and specifically, bid securities, shall be promptly returned to the Bidders.

41. Notice of Intention for Award of Contract

41.1 If Standstill provisions apply as specified in the BDS, the standstill period shall be defined in the BDS to specify the duration subsequent to notification of intention for award of contract (before making the actual contract award) within which any unsuccessful bidder can challenge the proposed award.

F. Award of Contract

42. Award Criteria

42.1 The Employer shall award the Contract to the Bidder whose offer has been determined in line with ITB 37 to ITB 39 above to be the lowest evaluated Bid and is substantially responsive to the Bidding Document, provided further that the Bidder is determined to be qualified to perform

the Contract satisfactorily.

- 43. Notification of Award**
- 43.1 Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity and upon expiry of the standstill period specified in ITB 41.1, or upon satisfactory resolution of a complaint filed within standstill period, if applicable, the Employer shall transmit the Notification of Award using the form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms) to the successful Bidder, in writing, that its Bid has been accepted.
- 43.2 Unless standstill period applies, upon notification of award, unsuccessful Bidders may request in writing to the Employer for a debriefing seeking explanations on the grounds on which their Bids were not selected. The Employer shall promptly respond in writing and/or in a debriefing meeting to any unsuccessful Bidder who, after publication of contract award, requests a debriefing.
- 43.3 Until a formal contract is prepared and executed, the notification of award shall constitute a binding Contract.
- 44. Signing of Contract**
- 44.1 Promptly after notification, the Employer shall send the successful Bidder the Contract Agreement.
- 44.2 Within 7 days of receipt of the Contract Agreement, the successful Bidder shall sign, date, and return it to the Employer.
- 45. Performance Security**
- 45.1 Within 17 days of the receipt of notification of award from the Employer, the successful Bidder shall furnish the performance security in accordance with the conditions of contract, subject to ITB 38 and ITB 39, using for that purpose the Performance Security Form included in Section 9 (Contract Forms), or another form acceptable to the Employer. If the institution issuing the performance security is located outside the country of the employer, it shall have a correspondent financial institution located in the country of the employer to make it enforceable.
- 45.2 Failure of the successful Bidder to submit the abovementioned Performance Security or to sign the Contract Agreement shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment of the award and forfeiture of the bid security or execution of the Bid-Securing Declaration. In that event, the Employer may award the Contract to the next lowest evaluated Bidder whose offer is substantially responsive and is determined by the Employer to be qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily.
- 45.3 The above provision shall also apply to the furnishing of a domestic preference security if so required.
- 46. Bidding-Related Complaints**
- 46.1 If the Bidder has or is likely to suffer, loss or injury due to breach of a duty imposed on the Employer by the provisions of this bidding document, the bidder shall submit the complaint in writing to the Employer within ten (10) days from the date of letter of intent to award the contract pursuant to ITB 41.1.