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**ML-Bamako: EDF — long-term technical assistance for the National Authorising Officer Support Unit
2010/S 245-373370**

Place(s) of service provision: Mali

Service contract notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

Main object:

71356200 Technical assistance services

1. **Publication reference:**
EuropeAid/130569/D/SER/ML.
2. **Procedure:**
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**
9th or 10th EDF.
4. **Financing:**
Financing agreement.
5. **Contracting authority:**
Beneficiary: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, EDF National Authorising Officer, CONFED Unit.
6. **Type of contract:**
Unit price contract.
7. **Contract description:**
The food security support programme 'PASA Mali 5' includes institutional support with long-term technical assistance for 3 years for the EDF National Authorising Officer Support Unit (CONFED).
The particular objectives of this contract are:
 - to strengthen the capacities of national managers of the CONFED and the Planning and Statistics Units (CPS) (rural development and others as relevant) for the monitoring and assessment of and capitalisation on the results of NGO projects in the field of food and nutrition security and monitoring of projects in the field,
 - to coordinate and network NGOs,
 - to strengthen the capacities of NGOs for the implementation and internal monitoring of and systematic capitalisation on their projects,
 - to capitalise on and analyse experiences for the formulation of recommendations for subsequent calls for proposals,
 - to create a database (including mapping to communal level) of NGO projects, and to disseminate and publish the analyses.
8. **Number and titles of lots:**
The contract is divided into lots:
no, 1 lot only.
9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 600 000 EUR.

10. **Additional services:**

Subject to the availability of funding, the contracting authority may decide at its own discretion to extend the duration and/or scope of the contract, without however exceeding the initial contract value and duration. Any contract renewal is subject to the satisfactory performance of the tasks by the contractor.

Conditions for participation

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open on equal terms to all natural persons and legal entities (irrespective of whether they are taking part as individuals or as part of a grouping (consortium) of tenderers) from the EU Member States and ACP countries, and also to international organisations, as authorised by the instrument applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also point 29 below).

12. **Application:**

Any eligible natural person or legal entity (as defined in point 11 above) or grouping of said parties (consortium) may apply.

A consortium can be a permanent grouping with legal status or an informal grouping created with a specific invitation to tender in mind. All the members of a consortium (i.e. lead company and all other partners) shall be jointly and severally liable vis-à-vis the contracting authority.

Should an ineligible natural person or legal entity (as defined in point 11) take part, the application concerned will be automatically disqualified. If said ineligible party belongs to a consortium, the application from the whole consortium will be disqualified.

13. **Number of applications:**

Natural persons or legal entities may submit 1 application only, irrespective of whether they take part as a sole legal entity, or as a lead company or member of a consortium submitting an application. Should a natural person or legal entity submit more than 1 application, all the applications involving said party will be disqualified.

14. **Prohibition on alliances between shortlisted candidates:**

Tenders which include companies not mentioned on the application forms used to compile the shortlist will be disqualified from this restricted procedure. Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

Candidates must sign and enclose with their application the statement provided in the standard application form confirming that they are not in any of the exclusion situations described in point 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is not permitted.

17. **Number of candidates invited to tender:**

Between 4 and 8 candidates will be invited to submit a detailed tender for this contract, on the basis of the applications received. If the number of eligible candidates fulfilling the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite those candidates fulfilling the criteria to tender.

Provisional timetable

18. **Scheduled date for dispatch of invitations to tender:**

1.3.2011.

19. **Provisional start date for the contract:**

1.7.2011.

20. **Initial length:**
Duration in months: 36 (from the award of the contract).

Selection and award criteria

21. **Selection criteria:**
Identical criteria for natural persons and legal entities.
The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. If the application is submitted by a consortium, these criteria will apply to the consortium as a whole.
1) Candidate's economic and financial capacity (assessed on the basis of point 3 of the application form).
If the candidate is a public body, equivalent information must be submitted:
1. the candidate's average annual turnover must be more than twice the maximum annualised amount budgeted for the contract;
2. cash and cash equivalents at the beginning and end of the financial year must be in surplus, overall.
2) Candidate's professional capacity:
at least 2 people must currently be working for the candidate in fields related to this contract.
3) Candidate's technical capacity:
in the past 3 years, the candidate must have successfully worked on at least 1 project where the budget was at least equivalent to the budget for this contract and where the fields involved were related to those in this contract.
An economic operator may, if necessary and for a specific contract, make use of the capacities of other bodies irrespective of the legal nature of the connection between himself and said bodies. In this event, he must provide the contracting authority with proof that he will have the resources needed to carry out the contract by, for example, producing a written commitment by said bodies to make such resources available. These bodies, e.g. the economic operator's parent company, must observe the same eligibility rules, notably regarding nationality, as the economic operator.
If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the aforementioned selection criteria, then the strengths and weaknesses of these applications must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications.
Only the following criteria will be considered in this re-examination:
— the performance of a significant role in the past 3 years in projects in developing countries, in particular in the Sahel,
— an international consortium/consultancy firm will be given preference over a similar sole candidate.
22. **Award criterion:**
Best quality/price ratio.

Application

23. **Final date for receipt of applications:**
1.2.2011 (10:00), local time.
Applications received after this deadline will be rejected.
24. **Application submission procedures and information to be supplied:**
Applications must strictly comply with submission procedures and the instructions of the standard application form, available on the Internet at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_fr.htm
Additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) enclosed with the application will not be considered.
25. **Procedures for dispatch of applications:**
Applications must only be sent to the contracting authority in French:
— either by registered post (official postal service), to the following address:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, EDF National Authorising Officer, CONFED Unit, PO Box 1755, quartier de Koulouba, Bamako, MALI,
— or delivered by hand (including by courier service) to the contracting authority itself, in return for a signed and dated acknowledgement of receipt, at the aforementioned address. For the attention of: Mr Elly Arama. Tel. +223 20229820 / 20224530.

The contract title and publication reference (see point 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must be quoted in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority. Applications submitted in any other way will be rejected.

26. **Amendments to or withdrawal of applications:**

Candidates may amend or withdraw their application by giving notice thereof in writing before the final date for receipt of applications. Applications cannot be amended once this deadline has passed.

Notice of amendments or withdrawal must be drawn up and sent as per the instructions given in point 25. The word 'Modification' (amendment) or 'Retrait' (withdrawal), as applicable, must be written on the outside envelope and on the inner envelope (if applicable).

27. **Working language:**

All correspondence concerning this invitation to tender procedure and contract must be in French.

28. **Date of publication of the prior information notice:**

29.9.2010.

29. **Legal basis:**

9th or 10th EDF: ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23.6.2000, amended on 25.6.2005 and in 2008 (Annex IV).

30. **Additional information**

31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**

7.12.2010.