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**BF-Ouagadougou: DCI — providing the ICDCS with technical assistance for the 'Food Security Thematic Program section 2' (FSTP 2) — linking information and decision-making to improve food security in the ICDCS and Ecowas countries**

**2011/S 76-123469**

**Location: the Sahel, West Africa — Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo**

**Service procurement notice**

1. **Publication reference:**  
EuropeAid/130874/C/SER/Multi.  
Internet address(es)  
European Union, represented by the European Commission on behalf of and for the account of the beneficiary country, Delegation of the EU in Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou.
2. **Procedure:**  
Restricted.
3. **Programme:**  
DCI.
4. **Financing:**  
Financing agreement.
5. **Contracting authority:**  
European Union, represented by the European Commission on behalf of and for the account of the beneficiary country, Brussels, BELGIUM.
6. **Nature of contract:**  
Fee-based.
7. **Contract description:**  
The aim of the long-term technical assistance required under this call is to build up food security's regional institutional framework in order to provide concerted and harmonised management of food security for the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the Ecowas member countries, Chad and Mauritania. The long-term technical assistance (LT TA) will support the ICDCS. This support will cover the following:  
(i) devising food security strategies and policies;  
(ii) structural and cyclical analysis of food security;  
(iii) monitoring and evaluation of projects under the FSTP programme.  
The technical assistance is based at the executive secretariat of the Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (ICDCS).
8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**  
The contract is divided into lots: no, 1 lot only.
9. **Budget:**  
Maximum budget: 1 200 000 EUR.
10. **Scope for additional services:**

The contracting authority may, at its own discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope, subject to the availability of funding, up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor.

### **Conditions of participation**

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of candidates) which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also item 29 below). Participation is also open to international organisations. The participation of natural persons is governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

12. **Candidature:**

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 11 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply. A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e. the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation of an ineligible natural or legal person (as per item 11) will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.

13. **Number of applications:**

No more than 1 application can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting an application). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than 1 application, all applications in which that person has participated will be excluded.

14. **Shortlist alliances prohibited:**

Any tenders received from tenderers having a different composition than the ones on the application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure, unless prior approval from the contracting authority has been obtained — see PRAG 2.4.3. Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

As part of the application form, candidates must submit a signed declaration, included in the standard application form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is not allowed.

17. **Number of candidates to be shortlisted:**

On the basis of the applications received, at least 4 and at most 8 candidates will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite the candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.

### **Provisional timetable**

18. **Provisional date of invitation to tender:**

13.6.2011.

19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**

1.10.2011.

20. **Initial period of implementation of tasks:**

Duration in months: 40 (from the award of the contract).

**Selection and award criteria**

21. **Selection criteria:**

Same criteria for legal and natural person.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of applications submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole.

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate:

in case of applicant being a public body equivalent information should be provided:

1. average turnover for the past 3 financial years (2008, 2009 and 2010) must be greater than 1 000 000 EUR;
2. average figures for cash and cash equivalents at the beginning and end of the past 3 financial years (2008, 2009 and 2010) must be positive.

2) Professional capacity of candidate:

1. in the current financial year (2011), at least 10 persons currently work for the candidate in fields related to this contract (food security, agricultural development, etc.);
2. in the current financial year (2011), at least 25 % of all staff working for the candidate in fields related to this contract are permanent.

3) Technical capacity of candidate:

1. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 3 projects, each with a budget of at least 400 000 EUR, in the field of food security and/or agricultural development;
2. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 3 projects, each with a budget of at least 50 000 EUR, to devise or review national or regional policies on food security or agricultural development;
3. in the past 3 years, the candidate has worked successfully on at least 1 regional food security programme in Africa, with a budget of at least 50 000 EUR.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. Some examples of when it may not be considered appropriate by the contracting authority are when the tenderer relies in majority on the capacities of other entities or when he relies on key criteria. If the candidate relies on other entities it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.

Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality, as the economic operator. Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in the tender in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be furnished when requested by the contracting authority.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the applications of these candidates must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. The only factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination are:

- firstly, the total sum of the budgets for the projects on which the candidate has worked successfully in the past 3 years to devise (only) national or regional policies on food security or agricultural development,
- secondly, the number of projects on which the candidate has worked successfully in the past 3 years with a budget of at least 100 000 EUR, whose beneficiary or awarding authority is a regional African organisation (ICDCS/WAEMU/Ecowas/SADC/EMCCA).

22. **Award criterion:**

Best value for money.

## **Application**

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**  
2.6.2011 (18:00), local time.  
Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.
24. **Applications format and details to be provided:**  
Applications must be submitted using the standard application form, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The application form is available at the following Internet address: [http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index\\_fr.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_fr.htm)  
Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an application will not be taken into consideration.
25. **How applications may be submitted:**  
Applications must be submitted exclusively to the contracting authority in French:  
— either by recorded delivery (official postal service), to: Delegation of the European Union in Burkina Faso, 01 PO Box 352, Ouagadougou 01, BURKINA FASO,  
— or hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to the above-mentioned address, for the attention of Mr Amadou Hebie. Tel. +226 50492900.  
Opening hours: Monday-Thursday 7:30-12:30 and 15:00-18:00, Fridays 7:30-13:00.  
The contract title and the publication reference (see item 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must always be mentioned in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority.  
Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.
26. **Alteration or withdrawal of applications:**  
Candidates may alter or withdraw their applications by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of applications. No applications may be altered after this deadline.  
Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with item 25. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal', as appropriate.
27. **Operational language:**  
All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in French.
28. **Date of publication of contract forecast notice:**  
Date: 29.12.2010.  
Notice number in OJ: 2010/S 252/386912.
29. **Legal basis:**  
Budget.
30. **Additional information**
31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**  
7.4.2011.