

This notice in TED website: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:71222-2011:TEXT:EN:HTML>

MR-Nouakchott: EDF — technical assistance for the project to support trade and the private sector in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

2011/S 44-071222

Location: ACP countries, the Sahel, West Africa — Mauritania

Service procurement notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV)

Main object:

71621000 Technical analysis or consultancy services

Additional object(s):

75112000 Administrative services for business operations

75112100 Administrative development project services

1. **Publication reference:**

EuropeAid/130543/D/SER/MR.

Internet address(es)

General address of the contracting authority: cellulefed@yahoo.fr

2. **Procedure:**

Restricted.

3. **Programme:**

9th or 10th EDF.

4. **Financing:**

Financing agreement.

5. **Contracting authority:**

Islamic Republic of Mauritania, EDF National Authorising Officer, Nouakchott, MAURITANIA.

6. **Nature of contract:**

Fee-based.

7. **Contract description:**

The project to support trade and the private sector (Pacsep) aims to help improve the competitiveness of the Mauritanian economy and facilitate its insertion into the regional economy (West Africa and the Maghreb Union) and world economy. It aims to provide the essential tools to allow Mauritania to benefit as much as possible from the economic partnership agreement (EPA) between the European Union (EU) and West Africa.

In the framework of implementation of this project, 2 technical assistants are foreseen to provide support and facilitate project management in accordance with the methods to manage direct labour activities:

— 1 principal expert and team leader (category 1), specialising in project management as well as in trade and private-sector support issues in the context of public/private partnerships,

— 1 principal expert (category 2) with sound knowledge of EPA issues and regional integration.

In terms of support, the technical assistance staff will assist the awarding authority with technical issues in fields relating to trade, the private sector and the EPA. In terms of facilitating management, the technical assistance staff will be required to help put the work schedule and its planning into operation.

Short-term technical assistance staff may be called upon from time to time for the project, for up to 6 man-months. Their profiles will be specified later, depending on the specific requirements of the project (training, building up specific capacities).

8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**

The contract is divided into lots: no, 1 lot only.

9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 1 300 000 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 in tendering is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons, participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers, from the ACP States and Member States of the European Union, and also to international organisations, as authorised by the instrument applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also heading 29 below).

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:**

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:**

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:**
2.5.2011.
19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**
1.9.2011.
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. the candidate's average annual turnover must exceed 500 000 EUR;
 2. cash and cash equivalents at the beginning and end of the financial year must be positive.
- 2) Professional capacity of candidate:
1. at least 5 employees on permanent contracts with the candidate as project/programme managers are currently working in fields involving strengthening institutional capacities, providing support for trade and the private sector and related government departments in developing countries;
 2. at least 20 % of all the staff on the candidate's payroll working this year in fields connected with this contract must be on permanent contracts.
- 3) Technical capacity of candidate:
1. over the past 3 years the candidate has carried out, to a standard acceptable to his clients, at least 2 technical assistance contracts in developing countries. These contracts must have been in fields related to the present contract, each for an amount equivalent to 600 000 EUR or more;
 2. the candidate has obtained good results over the past 3 years in at least 1 project involving support for trade and the private sector under the EDF, with a budget at least equivalent to 600 000 EUR (value of services provided) and a duration of at least 2 years.
- 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 he has with them. In this event, he must provide the contracting authority with proof that he will have the resources needed to carry out the contract, for example, by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at his 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.
- 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 factor which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination is:
- 1) number of assignments to support trade and the private sector at national/regional level in West African countries and the Maghreb.

22. **Award criteria:**
Best value for money.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**
4.4.2011 (16:00), 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
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:
EDF National Authorising Officer Support Unit, PO Box 3006, Nouakchott, MAURITANIA,
— or hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt, at the aforementioned address, for the attention of the EDF National Authorising Officer Support Unit. Tel. +222 45252563. E-mail: cellule_fed@yahoo.fr or info@dgppi.com or bouasvan.bouasy@eeas.europa.eu
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: 30.9.2010.
Notice number in OJ: [2010/S 190-289361](#).
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:**
The candidate must describe, in his methodological note, the local human resources and the logistical resources necessary for running the technical assistance team. The cost of these provisions must be included in the experts' fees as part of the unit price budget within the tender.
31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**
21.2.2011.