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**NE-Niamey: EDF — airborne geophysical survey in the lullemeden basin
2011/S 117-192100**

Location: ACP countries — Niger

Service procurement notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

Main object:

71351710 Geophysical prospecting services

1. **Publication reference:**

EuropeAid/131447/D/SER/NE.

Internet address(es)

General address of the contracting authority: Ministry of the Economy and Finance, EDF National Authorising Officer, PO Box 13854, Niamey, REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

2. **Procedure:**

Restricted.

3. **Programme:**

8th EDF.

4. **Financing:**

Financing agreement.

5. **Contracting authority:**

Republic of Niger, represented by the EDF National Authorising Officer, Niamey, NIGER.

6. **Nature of contract:**

Global price and fee-based.

7. **Contract description:**

This contract is part of the programme to strengthen and diversify the mining sector in the Republic of Niger, which is financed by Sysmin 8th EDF. It aims to diversify mining production and also to strengthen the mining sector.

This project involves an airborne geophysical survey of part of the lullemeden basin located in the west of Niger covering a surface area estimated at 40 739 km². The survey will use magnetometric, spectrometric and electromagnetometric methods.

The data acquired, in both digital and paper format, will undergo the processing and interpretation required to produce the maps in the appropriate scales and formats in digital and paper format. These maps will be used to promote the sector amongst private national and international investors.

The main substances for which indices are sought are coal, iron and phosphate.

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

The contract is divided into lots:

no, 1 lot only.

9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 3 000 000 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 the contract is open, on equal terms, to all natural and legal persons from the European Union Member States and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries signatory to the 4th Lomé Convention, as revised by the agreement signed in Mauritius on 4.11.1995.

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:**

20.9.2011.

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

20.12.2011.

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

Duration in months: 18.

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. reference criterion: average annual turnover of the candidate, or the lead company of a grouping comprising a maximum of 3 members, over the past 3 years must have been at least equal to:

— 2 000 000 EUR;

2. cash and cash equivalents must be positive at the beginning and end of the financial year.

2) Professional capacity of candidate:

1. availability of high-performance technical equipment in good working order to carry out the contract;

2. availability of at least 20 technical staff members who fulfil the conditions stipulated to carry out an airborne geophysical survey (flight crew, electronics technicians, geophysicists, logisticians, experts in QC and processing and interpretation of Mag/Spectro and Mag/EM data);

3. at least 20 % of all staff working for the candidate this year in fields related to this contract are permanent.

3) Technical capacity of candidate:

1. the candidate must have successfully carried out (as proven by a certificate of satisfactory performance) at least 2 airborne geophysical surveys with a financial scope and technical specifications comparable to or exceeding the present ones during the past 3 years in a similar geological context.

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 tenderers rely in majority on the capacities of other entities or when they rely 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 these third entities 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:

— number of experiences with geophysical surveys which were comparable in technical, financial and contextual terms.

22. **Award criteria:**

Best value for money.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**

16.8.2011 (17:30), 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 the following language: French:

— either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to:

EDF National Authorising Officer, c/o 'European Union' Unit, 265, avenue du Gouverneur Jules Brevié, PO Box 13854, Niamey, NIGER,

— 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 the EDF National Authorising Officer, Ministry of the Economy and Finance, c/o 'European Union' Unit, 265, avenue du Gouverneur Jules Brevié, Niamey. Tel. +227 20722127.

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 'Modification' (alteration) or 'Retrait' (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:**

17.5.2011.

29. **Legal basis:**

4th Lomé Convention, as revised by the agreement signed in Mauritius on 4.11.1995.

Financing agreement: 6594/NIR — 8th EDF — Programme to strengthen and diversify the mining sector in Niger and rider No 1 thereto.

30. **Additional information:**

Contracting authority's opening time: 8:00, local time.

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

9.6.2011.