



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

DATE: 28/09/2017

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL: No. 2017/HCR/HKG/RFP/10063

FOR THE PROVISION OF

RESEARCH SERVICE IN HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
(Hong Kong SAR) OF CHINA

CLOSING DATE AND TIME: 26/10/2017 – 23:59hrs Hong Kong Time

INTRODUCTION TO UNHCR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.

In more than five decades, the agency has helped tens of millions of people restart their lives. Today, a staff of some 6,600 people in more than 128 countries continues to help about 65 million persons. To help and protect some of the world's most vulnerable people in so many places and types of environment, UNHCR must purchase goods and services worldwide. For further information on UNHCR, its mandate and operations, please see <http://www.unhcr.org> or <http://www.unhcr.org/hk>

1. REQUIREMENTS

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sub-Office Hong Kong, invites qualified service provider to make a firm offer for the establishment of contract(s) for the provision of Research Services in Hong Kong SAR.

IMPORTANT:

Terms of Reference (TORS) are detailed in Annex A of this document.

UNHCR may award contract to the successful bidder, who will be requested to maintain their quoted price model over the course of contract period.

The estimated requirement of UNHCR is detailed in Terms of Reference (TORS) – Annex A of this document.

Please note that figures have been stated in order to enable bidders to have an indication of the projected requirements. It does not represent a commitment that UNHCR will purchase a minimum quantity of services. Quantities may vary and will depend on the actual requirements and funds available regulated by issuance of individual Purchase Orders.

IMPORTANT:

When a contract is awarded, either party can terminate the agreement only upon 60 days notice, in writing to the other party.

The initiation of conciliation or arbitral proceedings in accordance with **article 18** "settlement of disputes" of the UNHCR General Conditions of Contracts for provision of Services shall not be deemed to be a "cause" for or otherwise to be in itself a termination clause.

It is strongly recommended that this Request for Proposal and its annexes be read thoroughly. Failure to observe the procedures laid out therein may result in disqualification from the evaluation process.

Sub-Contracting: Please take careful note of article 5 of the attached General Terms and Conditions (Annex D).

Note: this document is not construed in any way as an offer to contract with your firm.

2. BIDDING INFORMATION:

2.1. RFP DOCUMENTS

The following annexes form integral part of this Request for Proposals:

- Annex A: Terms of Reference (TORs) / to be acknowledged
- Annex B: Financial Offer Form / **to be submitted**
- Annex C: Vendor Registration Form / **to be submitted**
- Annex D: UNHCR General Conditions of Contracts for the Provision of Services – 2010 / to be acknowledged
- Annex E: UNHCR Special Data Protection Conditions / to be acknowledged
- Annex F: RFP Checklist Form / **to be submitted**

2.2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We would appreciate your informing us of the receipt of this RFP by return e-mail to chiho@unhcr.org as to:

- Your confirmation of receipt of this request for proposals
- Whether or not your representative(s) will attend the conference on 11 Oct 2017
- Whether or not you will be submitting a bid

2.3 REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION

Bidders are required to submit any request for clarification or any question in respect of this RFP by e-mail to the Secretary of the Committee on Contracts at chiho@unhcr.org. **The deadline for receipt of questions is 23:59hrs Hong Kong time on 9 Oct 2017.** Bidders are requested to keep all questions concise.

IMPORTANT:

Inclusion of copies of your offer with any correspondence sent directly to the attention of the responsible buyer or any other UNHCR staff other than the submission e-mail address will result in disqualification of the offer. Please send your bid directly to the address provided in the "Submission of Bid" section 2.6) of this RFP.

UNHCR will compile the questions received and will respond to these at the supplier conference. After the supplier conference, a Questions & Answers document will be prepared and posted on the UNHCR and UNGM website.

A conference will be held on 11 Oct 2017 at 11:00hrs Hong Kong Time in the office of UNHCR Hong Kong (Address: Room 911 Yau Ma Tei Carpark Bldg., 250 Shanghai Street, Kowloon, HK) to familiarize interested parties with the requirements. Representatives of interested parties are encouraged to attend and requested to confirm their presence. It is of outmost importance that **no financial information is disclosed** at this point of the process by either party.

2.4 **YOUR OFFER**

Your offer shall be prepared in English.

Your offer shall comprise the following two sets of documents:

- Technical offer
- Financial offer*

*Only offers made in the format of form Annex B will be accepted

2.4.1 **Content of the TECHNICAL OFFER**

IMPORTANT:

No pricing information should be included in the Technical offer. Failure to comply may risk disqualification. The technical offer should contain all information required.

The Terms of Reference (TORs) of the services requested by UNHCR can be found in **Annex A**. Your technical offer should be concisely presented and structured in the following order to include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following information:

a) **Description of the company and the company's qualifications**

A description of your company with the following documents: company profile, registration certificate and last audit reports:

- Year founded;
- If multi location company, specify headquarters location, as well as location (s) and registration date(s) of your local office(s) in Hong Kong;
- Research experience in the business or the number of similar and successfully completed projects;
- Number of similar projects currently services in Hong Kong as well as elsewhere and their identities;
- Any relevant experience working with UNHCR Hong Kong, other UN Agencies and NGOs should be included;
- Total number of existing clients, please provide a list;

Any information that will facilitate our evaluation of your company's substantive reliability, financial and managerial capacity to provide the services.

b) **Understanding of the requirements for services, proposed approach, solutions, methodology and outputs**

Any comments or suggestions on the TOR, as well as your detailed description of the manner in which your company would respond to the TOR:

- A description of your organization's capacity to provide the service
 - Proposed work approach, solutions and deliverables, quality of the technical response to the requirements as stipulated in the TORs Section 2.
 - Proposal on methodology of the research and types of research
 - Work plan to demonstrate how to implement the proposal
 - Proposed timeline of the project
 - Comprehensive knowledge of various research methodologies and trends in conducting research
 - Strong analytical and organizational skills, thoughtfulness and discretion

c) Proposed personnel to carry out the assignment

Please indicate the composition of the team (project managers, paid staff, subcontractors, consultants) you propose to provide for the project. In particular:

- Describe the roles and responsibilities of each key member of your team (who/which subcontractors will directly handle/supervise the tasks/assist in operation) in fulfilling the full range of tasks included in the TOR;
- Specify the experience of each individual/ subcontractor who will directly handle/supervise the tasks/assist in operation;
- Describe their experience and expertise in working on similar projects, and/ or working with UN and/or not for profit international organizations;

Considerations

- **Vendor Registration Form:** If your company is not already registered with UNHCR, you should complete, sign and submit with your technical proposal the Vendor Registration Form (**Annex C**) along with your company certificate of business registration.
- **UNHCR General Conditions for Provision of Services:** Your technical offer should contain your acknowledgement of the UNHCR General Conditions for Provision of Services by signing **Annex D**.
- **UNHCR Special Data Protection Conditions:** Your technical offer should contain your acknowledgement of the UNHCR Special Data Protection Conditions by signing **Annex E**.
- **RFP Checklist Form – Annex F:** Bidder is requested to complete this form, sign it and return it as part of their Proposal submission. No alterations to its format shall be permitted and no substitutions shall be accepted. This form will help you to double-check if all mandatory information/ documents have been submitted.

2.4.2 Content of the FINANCIAL OFFER

Your separate **Financial Offer** must contain an overall offer for Research Services in Hong Kong SAR in a single currency, which shall be Hong Kong Dollar (HKD).

The financial offer must cover all the services to be provided (price "all inclusive").

The Financial Offer is to be submitted as per the Financial Offer Form (Annex B). Bids that have a different price structure may not be accepted.

UNHCR is exempt from all direct taxes and customs duties. With this regards, price has to be given exclusive of all forms of tax.

You are requested to hold your offer valid for 90 days from the deadline for submission. UNHCR will make its best effort to select a company within this period. UNHCR's standard payment terms are within 30 days after satisfactory implementation and receipt of documents in order.

The cost of preparing proposals and of negotiating a contract, including any related travel, is not reimbursable nor can it be included as a direct cost of the assignment.

2.5 PROPOSAL EVALUATION:

2.5.1 **Supplier Registration:**

The qualified supplier(s) will be added to the Vendor Database after investigation of suitability based on the submitted Vendor Registration Form and supporting documents. The investigation involves consideration of several factors such as:

- Financial standing;
- Core business;
- Track record;
- Contract capacity.

2.5.2 **Technical and Financial evaluation:**

For the award of this project, UNHCR has established evaluation criteria which govern the selection of offers received. Evaluation is made on a technical and financial basis. The percentage assigned to each component is determined in advance as follows:

The **Technical offer** will be evaluated using inter alia the following criteria and percentage distribution: **70%** from the total score

1. Company Qualifications (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General liability/ capacity of the company (5%) • Previous relevant projects (Donor research) executed (5%) • Relevant sector experience and experience working with not for profit and/ or UN (5%)
2. Proposed Services (40%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content of the Proposal suitable for the requirement of the RFP (10%) • Methodology for Quantitative research suitable for requirement (10%) • Methodology for Qualitative research suitable for requirement (10%) • Suitability, creativity and quality of deliverables/ recommendations (10%)
3. Personnel Qualifications (15%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of core people who will work on project (including experience with similar projects, and not for profit experience) (15%)
Total:	70%

IMPORTANT:

The technical offer will be evaluated using the criteria and percentage distribution: 70% from the total score. Bidder must have a minimum technical threshold of 42 out of 70 points for the technical proposal in order to be considered further for the financial evaluation.

The **Financial offer** will use the following percentage distribution: **30%** from the total score.

The maximum number of points will be allotted to the lowest price offer that is opened and compared among those invited firms. All other price offers will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price; e.g., [total Price Component] x [HKD lowest] \ [HKD other] = points for other supplier's Price Component.

2.6 SUBMISSION OF BID:

The offers must bear your official letter head, clearly identifying your company.

Bids should be submitted by e-mail and all attachments should be in PDF format.

The Technical and Financial offers shall be **clearly separated**.

Bid must be sent by e-mail ONLY to: hkbids@unhcr.org

IMPORTANT:

The technical offer and financial offer are to be sent in separate documents. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

Deadline: 26/10/2017, 23:59hrs Hong Kong Time.

IMPORTANT:

Any bid received after this date or sent to another UNHCR address may be rejected. UNHCR may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids, by notifying all prospective bidders simultaneously.

It is your responsibility to verify that all e-mails have been received properly before the deadline. Please be aware of the fact that the e-mail policy employed by UNHCR limits the size of attachments to a maximum of **20 Mb** so it may be necessary to send more than one e-mail for the whole submission.

Please indicate in e-mail subject field (each of the email sent):

- 2017/HCR/HKG/RFP/10063
- Name of your firm
- Title of the attachment
- Clearly state if the email contains the financial or technical part of your offer (to be submitted separately)
- Number of e-mails that are sent (example: 1/3, 2/3, 3/3).

UNHCR will not be responsible for locating or securing any information that is not identified in the bid. Accordingly, to ensure that sufficient information is available, the bidder shall furnish, as part of the bid, any descriptive material such as extracts, descriptions, and other necessary information it deems would enhance the comprehension of its offer.

2.7 BID ACCEPTANCE:

UNHCR reserves the right to accept the whole or part of your bid.

UNHCR may at its discretion increase or decrease the proposed content when awarding the contract and would not expect a significant variation of the rate submitted. Any such increase or decrease in the contract duration would be negotiated with the successful bidder as part of the finalization of the Purchase Orders for Services.

UNHCR may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for the submission of bids, by notifying all prospective suppliers in writing. The extension of the deadline may accompany a modification of the solicitation documents prepared by UNHCR at its own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective supplier.

Please note that UNHCR is not bound to select any of the firms submitting bids and does not bind itself in any way to select the firm offering the lowest price. Furthermore, the contract will be awarded to the bid considered most responsive to the needs, as well as conforming to UNHCR's general principles, including economy and efficiency and best value for money.

2.8 CURRENCY AND PAYMENT TERMS FOR PURCHASE ORDERS

Any Purchase Order (PO) issued as a result of this RFP will be made in the currency of the winning offer(s). Payment will be made in accordance to the General Conditions for the Purchase of Services and in the currency in which the PO is issued. Payments shall only be initiated after confirmation of successful completion by UNHCR business owner.

2.9 UNHCR GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES

Please note that the General Conditions of Contracts (**Annex D**) will be strictly adhered to for the purpose of any future contract. The Bidder must confirm the acceptance of these terms and conditions in writing.



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UNHCR Sub-office Hong Kong