MOLDOVA RURAL CONNECTIVITY PROJECT- P180153

NATIONAL ROAD ADMINISTRATION

CLARIFICATION DOCUMENT No.1

Answers to the Requests for Clarification received from Consultants on the Invitation for Expression of Interest

Consulting Services for Construction Supervision of:

Rehabilitation of Corridor 5: G33: R12 - Mindic - Zgurita - Marculesti - R13, km 41+58+660 and G35: R14 - Tepilova - Vantina - Cainarii Vechi - G33, km 0+117 - km 19+463

(client's reference MRCP/W3/01)

Issued on November 3rd, 2025

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Question 1

Company Experience – Criterion 2.1: Experience of Consultant in Similar Assignments

The REOI specifies the following two requirements under Criterion 2.1:

(a) At least two construction supervision assignments in road construction or rehabilitation, each with a minimum value equivalent to EUR 1,500,000, successfully and substantially (at least 80%) completed during the last 10 years, with a minimum participation of 50% if undertaken as a member of a JVCA.

(b) At least one successfully completed project during the last 10 years involving supervision of works under the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Plant & Design-Build (Yellow Book), 1st Edition 1999 or 2nd Edition 2017 (with amendments), with a minimum of 50% own input.

Could you please clarify whether these two requirements will be evaluated cumulatively or independently? Specifically, can the project submitted to demonstrate experience under the FIDIC Yellow Book requirement involve supervision of civil works other than roads, or must it also be a road construction or rehabilitation assignment?

Answer

Under each sub-criterion the EOIs will be evaluated separately.

Unlike the sub-criterion (a), the sub-criterion (b) does not require that experience shall be in the road sector. Experience in previous projects involving FIDIC Yellow Book in any domain will qualify.

Question 2

Mode of Submission of the Expression of Interest

The REOI states that Expressions of Interest may be submitted "by e-mail or in person." However, the notice also specifies that in-person submissions should include one hard copy (comprising one original and one copy) and one electronic copy on a memory stick.

Could you please confirm whether submission by email alone is sufficient for the EOI to be considered for evaluation, or whether hard-copy and electronic-copy submissions on a memory stick are also required?

Answer

It is confirmed that submission of EOI by email alone is sufficient.

Question 3

Does the minimum value of EUR 1,500,000 for similar assignments refer to the consultancy contract value or to the value of the supervised works?

Answer

The stated value of EUR 1,500,000 refers to the construction supervision consultancy contract, while the stated rate of completion (at least 80%) refers to the works contract.

Question 4

Which exchange rate and date will be used to convert contract values in other currencies to EUR?

Answer

Exchange rate at the date of respective contract signing shall be used, as such rate is established by the Central (National) Bank of the country of the client (as per such contract).

Question 5

Will supervision of design-build road works under the Model EPC Agreement of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India (used by NHAI/NHIDCL), in which the contractor is responsible for design and construction on a lump-sum basis and the consultant acts as "Authority's Engineer" (design review, payment certification, change of scope, tests on completion and issue of the Completion Certificate), be accepted as equivalent to, or receive partial credit under, the FIDIC Yellow Book criterion? Please also confirm whether supervision as "Independent Engineer" under Hybrid Annuity design-build concession agreements will be considered.

Answer

Where the REOI specifically require professional experience under the **FIDIC Conditions of Contract**, such requirement shall be demonstrated through experience acquired under the applicable FIDIC Conditions of Contract.

Experience acquired under national conditions of contract, including those of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India, shall not be considered as experience under the FIDIC Conditions of Contract for the purpose of meeting the specific FIDIC experience requirements set out in the REOI. While there are many national forms of contracts which resemble various forms of FIDIC contracts, the client has no ability to make an ex-ante verification of the extent of similarity of those forms to the respective FIDIC models, neither the capacity to verify the number of jurisdictions where such similar model contracts were adopted, so as to treat the residents from all such jurisdictions in an equal manner.

Such experience may nevertheless be presented as part of the firm’s overall experience, where relevant.

Question 6

For concession or hybrid-annuity projects, is the Employer's Completion Certificate accepted as equivalent to a Taking-Over Certificate?

Answer

The relevant document confirming completion of the scope under the referenced contract will be considered, irrespective of the title it has (subject the respective contract qualifies under the respective criterion of the REOI).

Question 7

Is the experience of sub-consultants considered at shortlisting, or only that of joint venture partners?

Answer

Experience of sub-consultants is not taken into consideration for the purpose of evaluation.

Question 8

Terms of Reference:

We kindly request the detailed Terms of Reference for the assignment, complete with all appendices, together with any other document made available to interested Consultants. In particular, the version of the Terms of Reference available to us (45 pages) does not include the content of Appendix A (extracts from the Concept Design): we would be grateful to receive it.

Answer

The Terms of Reference at this point is only in a preliminary draft form and shall be updated further by the Client. Likewise, the Concept Design, which shall form part of the procurement package for the Design-Build contract, is still under development.

Both updated and final versions of the Terms of Reference and Concept Design will be shared at the stage of requesting proposals from the shortlisted participants.

Question 8

Clarifications on the FIDIC experience requirement (criterion 2.1) Criterion 2.1 requires "at least 1 successfully completed project during the last 10 years in supervision of works under FIDIC Conditions of Contract for Plant & Design-Build (Yellow Book) 1st edition 1999 or 2nd edition 2017 (with amendments), with a minimum amount of 50% own input".

We kindly ask the Client to clarify the following points:

Railway works. Since the requirement does not refer to a specific infrastructure sector, could the Client confirm that the supervision of railway rehabilitation works, carried out under FIDIC conditions of contract, is accepted for this requirement? Please also confirm whether only the Yellow Book is accepted, or whether other FIDIC conditions of contract may be considered.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.1 above (for the question related to the experience in FIDIC Yellow Book in domains other than roads).

For the second aspect of the question, please refer to the clause 2.1 Experience of Consultant in similar assignments, where only the second sub-criterion expressly requires experience in FIDIC FIDIC Yellow Book, while under the first sub-criterion experience in supervision under any form of contract is acceptable.

Question 9

Design & Build contracts under conditions of contract other than FIDIC. Would the Client consider as equivalent the supervision of an integrated design-and-build contract carried out in Switzerland, where the use of FIDIC conditions of contract is not mandatory, and where the Consultant performed duties comparable to those of the Engineer under the Yellow Book (review of the Contractor's design, contract administration, variations and claims, taking-over of the works)? If so, please indicate which evidence would be accepted as equivalent to the Taking-Over Certificate.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.5 above.

Question 10

c) Joint Venture (JVCA). In the case of a JVCA, may this requirement be met by one of the partners only? Does the "minimum amount of 50% own input" refer to the share of that partner in the referenced assignment?

Answer

It is confirmed that the qualification requirement could be met by a JVCA partner.

The REOI provision related to 50% own input requires that a partner claiming such experience shall have had in the referenced contract a share of at least the respective value (50%).

Question 11

Company experience - Minimum value of similar assignments

Section 2.1 requires at least two road construction supervision assignments, each valued at a minimum of EUR 1.5 million, with at least 50% participation by the Consultant.

Please confirm that EUR 1.5 million refers to the total value of each supervision consultancy contract, rather than the Consultant's individual share, provided its participation was at least 50%.

Answer

It is confirmed that requirement for EUR 1.5 million refers to the total value of each supervision consultancy contract.

Question 12

Company experience - FIDIC Yellow Book experience

Section 2.1 requires at least one successfully completed supervision assignment under FIDIC Yellow Book 1999 or 2017, with at least 50% own input.

Please clarify whether this reference must concern road construction or rehabilitation, or whether supervision of other infrastructure works under FIDIC Yellow Book is equally acceptable. Furthermore, may this reference be one of the two road supervision assignments required under the same section, or must it be an additional, separate assignment?

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.1 above.

The **same** contract referenced in order to qualify under the sub-criterion requiring experience under FIDIC Yellow Book could be claimed to qualify under another sub-criterion, requiring experience concerning road construction or rehabilitation.

Question 13

Company experience - Reference period

The EoI refers to assignments completed during the last ten years, starting from 1 January 2015.

Please confirm that assignments completed from 1 January 2015 onwards are eligible, notwithstanding that this period exceeds ten years at the EoI submission deadline.

Answer

It is confirmed that assignments completed from 1 January 2015 onwards are eligible.

Question 14

Company experience - Similar geographic locations

Section 2.2 identifies specific countries as similar locations for evaluation purposes.

• *For evaluation purposes, 'similar locations' will be considered: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.*

Please confirm our understanding that the experience of the Consultant in similar locations can be related to any type of sector, such as transportation, energy, environmental, buildings, etc.

Please clarify whether comparable road supervision assignments performed in other Southeastern European countries, such as North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Albania, may also be considered under this criterion, given their comparable engineering, climatic and construction conditions.

Answer

Under this criterion, Consultant's experience in various geographical areas and exposure to different social and legal environments is evaluated. Thus, Consultant's experience in similar locations can be related to any type of sector, such as transportation, energy, environmental, buildings, etc.

Question 15

Company's Profile Form – Project Coordinator CV

Please clarify whether a detailed CV of the proposed Project Coordinator is required at the EOI stage, given that the REoI states that *"Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage."*

Furthermore, please specify the qualification requirements for the Project Coordinator, as Table 1A of the Company's Profile Form refers to the *"… relevant managerial capacity of the Project Coordinator (a detailed CV is required)"*.

Answer

The detailed CV of the Project Coordinator is mandatory at the EOI stage. The Project Coordinator shall be a Chartered Engineer with demonstrated understanding and experience (>15 years) in management of FIDIC based Contracts.

Question 16

Shortlisting criteria - Qualification requirements for JVs

Please clarify whether the minimum requirements concerning ten years of road-sector consulting experience, ten permanent employees and EUR 500,000 annual turnover must be satisfied individually by every JV member, by the JV leader, or collectively by the JV as a whole.

Similarly, please confirm whether the required two road supervision references and one FIDIC Yellow Book reference may be demonstrated collectively by the JV partners.

Answer

It is confirmed that any of the mentioned requirements (ten years of road-sector consulting experience, ten permanent employees and EUR 500,000 annual turnover) may be met by a member of the JV.

It is further confirmed that an applicant will be qualified under the sub-criteria where one JV partner could demonstrate relevant experience in construction supervision under the respective requirements of the REOI.

Question 17

Shortlisting criteria - References from affiliated companies

Please clarify whether experience obtained by companies belonging to the same international corporate group may be considered in the assessment of an applicant's qualifications, particularly where the referenced contract was performed by a different legal entity within the group.

If such references are acceptable, please specify the required documentary evidence and whether the reference-holding company must participate formally in the proposed JV.

Answer

Only the experience of the participating entity (including any member of a JV) shall be considered. The applicant could not claim experience of any of the affiliated entity.

Question 18

Documents required for an EoI submitted by a JV

Please confirm whether a Letter of Intent or Memorandum of Understanding, signed by all proposed JV partners, is sufficient at the EoI stage, with the formal JV Agreement to be executed if shortlisted or awarded the contract.

Please also clarify whether supporting reference certificates and Taking-Over Certificates must be included within the 40-page limit or may be submitted as separate annexes.

Answer

It is confirmed that at the EoI stage a Letter of Intent or Memorandum of Understanding, signed by all proposed JV partners, is sufficient.

The copies of the Taking-Over Certificates will not be counted under the 40-page limit.

Question 19

Assignment duration

The EoI indicates an anticipated commencement in May 2027 and an overall duration of 42 months, whereas Section 7.1 of the ToR specifies 52 months and indicates a Works commencement date of 1 October 2026.

Please confirm the currently anticipated commencement date and duration of the consultancy services, and whether the ToR will be revised accordingly.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.7 above.

The Terms of Reference is still under the development and any error, discrepancy or redundancy shall be eliminated by the Client in the final version. The version provided to the prospective participants is for the information purpose only, to provide a general understanding of the assignment. At this point the TOR does not create for any participant any commitment in respect of the start and duration of the assignment, and, therefore, no error, discrepancy or redundancy presents an impediment for the prospective applicants to prepare and submit their EOIs.

A firm anticipated commencement date and duration of the consultancy services will be provided in the Request for Proposals, at the respective subsequent point in the process, to all shortlisted consultants.

Question 20

Appendix A (extracts from the Concept Design) contains only the title. We would be grateful if you could send us the content of Appendix A, or let us know if it will be made available together with the Clarification document.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.7 above.

Question 21

The REOI, under "Company experience", sets out two separate sub-criteria:

2.1 Experience of Consultant in similar assignments: at least 2 construction supervision assignments in road construction or rehabilitation, each worth at least EUR 1,500,000, and at least 1 completed supervision under the FIDIC Yellow Book (1999 or 2017).

2.2 Experience of Consultant in similar locations: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The weighting table in the REOI scores these separately: 80% for similar assignments (2.1) and 10% for similar locations (2.2). Sub-criterion 2.1 does not state any geographic restriction.

Will assignments that meet the requirements of sub-criterion 2.1 but were carried out outside the countries listed under sub-criterion 2.2 (for example, in Middle East, LAC or Indian sub-continent) be accepted and scored under sub-criterion 2.1 (80%)?

Answer

Each of the referenced sub-criteria seeks to determine only the attributes expressly stated therein. Requirements of one sub-criterion shall not be conflated with those of another sub-criterion.

Sub-criterion 2.1 Experience of Consultant in similar assignments does not seek to evaluate participant's geographical extent of its relevant experience and contains no such statement.

Sub-criterion 2.1 aims only to determine consultant's experience in aspects stated, without tying such experience to any specific geographic zone.

Therefore, assignments that meet the requirements of sub-criterion 2.1 but were carried out outside the countries listed under sub-criterion 2.2, will be taken into consideration.

Question 22

Is sub-criterion 2.2 (10%) evaluated independently, i.e., scored on the Consultant's relevant experience in the listed countries, without requiring those same assignments to also satisfy all the requirements of sub-criterion 2.1?

Answer

Criterion 2.2 ("Experience of Consultant in similar locations") is intended to assess the Consultant's experience and familiarity with similar geographical, institutional and operational environments.

It is confirmed that EOIs will be evaluated under this sub-criterion independently of evaluation under other criteria in the REOI.

Question 23

Kindly provide us with the template required for submitting the Expression of Interest (EoI) for this project.

If no specific template is available, we would appreciate your clarification on the minimum information to be included in the Expression of Interest (EoI).

Answer

There is no prescribed template for the EOI other than those provided in the REOI.

The extent of the information to be included in the Expression of Interest (EoI), so as to best present the consultant's qualification under the stated criteria, is at the consultant's discretion.

Question 24

Regarding the criteria "*2.1. Experience of Consultant in similar assignments: at least 2 construction supervision assignments in road construction or rehabilitation (…)*"

Please confirm that:

supervision contracts of <u>design and build</u> in road construction or rehabilitation are accepted and scored

Answer

Sub-criterion in questions requires experience in construction supervision assignments in road construction or rehabilitation. The fact that the referenced contract contains supervision of design element, does not make it irrelevant in respect of the supervision of the construction element.

Therefore, a contract for the supervision of <u>design and build</u> in road construction or rehabilitation will be accepted and scored accordingly.

Question 25

Regarding the criteria "*2.1. Experience of Consultant in similar assignments: (…) during the last 10 years, starting 1st of January 2015 at the deadline for submission of the Expression of Interest*"

Please confirm that:

a) supervision contracts signed before 1st of January 2015, but which were executed during the reference period: from 1 January 2015 up to the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest, are accepted and scored;

b) supervision contracts that are in progress of more than 80% at the moment of EOI submission are accepted and scored.

Answer

(a) Please refer to Answer under the Question no.13 above.

(b) It is confirmed that contracts for the supervision of works that are in progress with a rate of execution of more than 80% at the moment of EOI submission will be accepted and scored.

Question 26

Regarding the criteria "*2.2. Experience of Consultant in similar locations*",

Please specify whether all supervision contracts from the listed locations will be scored, regardless the sector, field, implementation period and stage they are in.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.22 above.

Question 27

Regarding the phrase: "*Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage*".

Please confirm that the Consultant is not required to present at the EOI stage any of the experts listed in the *Request for Expressions of interest* or detailed in the *Terms of Reference*.

Answer

It is confirmed that EOI shall not include CVs of the Key Experts.

Question 28

Regarding the overall duration of the contract, there are 2 different information in EoI and in RFP:

- **EOI, pg. 1**: "*estimated overall duration of 42 months, which includes 30 months of works supervision and 12 months covering Defects Notification Period*"

versus:

- **RFP, pg. 36**: "*The Consultant's services shall be performed over an estimated period of 52 months*."

Please clarify the contract period on stages.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.19 above.

Question 29

Regarding the table of inputs of experts (person-month), from RFP, pg. 37, please clarify if these are the final inputs or they can change at the RFP stage.

Answer

Please refer to Answer under the Question no.19 above.

Question 30

Regarding the qualification for the RFP stage, please mention if there is a limited number of participants to be short-listed in the EOI stage.

Answer

It is confirmed that the purpose of the requesting EOI is to make a short list of consultants, whose number will be limited, in accordance with applicable Procurement Regulations.

Question 31

Regarding the experience in similar assignments of the Consultant, please refer the maximum number of contracts for maximum score.

Answer

The REOI states no limitation on the number of such references to be provided. Therefore, consultants are free to list the number of such contracts they consider appropriate.

Question 32

Company experience / 2.1 Experience of Consultant in similar assignments: Please clarify whether FIDIC Yellow Book assignments submitted as references to demonstrate the company's experience can also be "substantially (at least 80%) completed as in the case of the construction supervision assignments.

Answer

The stated proportion ("at least 80%") is intended to refer to the construction works contract.

The measure of completion of the supervision contracts shall be determined as stated in the footnote 2 of the REOI, where it mentions that "Ongoing contracts will be considered substantially completed only if by the said cut-off date, the main supervision activities have been completed by the Consultant and the taking over certificate for the works supervised have been issued. Contracts on which the main supervision activities are still ongoing will not be considered."

Question 33

Expression of Interest contents: We understand that the Consultants must provide the following tables that constitute the entire EOI:

- Table 1A. Company's profile Form including a detailed CV of the Project Coordinator
- Table 1. Consultant's Experience List
- Table 2. Consultant's Experience Form

Please clarify if any additional documents are required, e.g. any declarations to be signed by the Consultants and, if yes, please provide the respective templates. As the 3 Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage and considering also the 40 - page limit set for the EOI, we understand that Key Expert CVs will not be part of the EOI; please confirm.

Answer

It is confirmed that only the forms provided in the REOI are required to be submitted.

It is further confirmed that Key Experts will not be evaluated at this stage and CVs shall not be added to the EOI.

Question 34

Submission of Expressions of Interest: The invitation provides for submission either in - person or by e - mail.

We understand that an in - person submission must include two hard copies (one original and one copy) and one electronic copy on a USB drive. Please confirm whether this is correct.

Please clarify what the e - mail submission should contain, including any file size requirements, and confirm whether the e - mail address procurement.wb@andsa.md should be used for e – mail submissions.

Answer

It is confirmed that in case of in person submission, EOI must include two hard copies (one original and one copy) and one electronic copy on a USB drive.

For the option of electronic submission, the e - mail address procurement.wb@andsa.md should be used.