

## Section I: Instructions to Bidders

### 1. SCOPE OF QUOTATION

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Bidders are invited to submit a quotation for the goods and/or services specified in Section II: Schedule of Requirements, in accordance with this RFQ.

### 2. INTERPRETATION OF THE RFQ

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This RFQ is an invitation to treat and shall not be construed as an offer capable of being accepted or as creating any contractual, other legal or restitutionary rights.

This RFQ is conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of UNOPS Procurement Manual (latest version of which can be accessed at: <https://www.unops.org/english/Opportunities/suppliers/how-we-procure/Pages/default.aspx>) and other relevant Organisational Directives and Administrative Instructions that are referred to in the Procurement Manual. In case of contradictions between this RFQ and the UNOPS Procurement Manual, the UNOPS Procurement Manual shall prevail.

### 3. BIDDER ELIGIBILITY

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Bidders may be a private, public or government-owned legal entity or any association with legal capacity to enter into a binding Contract with UNOPS.

A Bidder, and all parties constituting the bidder, may have the nationality of any country with the exception of the nationalities, if any, listed in **Particulars Section in e-sourcing**. A Bidder shall be deemed to have the nationality of a country if the Bidder is a citizen or is constituted, incorporated, or registered and operates in conformity with the provisions of the laws of that country.

A Bidder shall not have a conflict of interest. A bidder shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if:

- A Bidder has a close business or family relationship with a UNOPS personnel who: (i) are directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the bidding documents or specifications of the contract, and/or the bid evaluation process of such contract; or (ii) would be involved in the implementation or supervision of such contract;
- A Bidder is associated, or has been associated in the past, directly or indirectly, with a firm or any of its affiliates which have been engaged by UNOPS to provide consulting services for the preparation of the design, specifications, and other documents to be used for the procurement of the goods, services or works required in the present procurement process;
- A Bidder has an interest in other bidders, including when they have common ownership and/or management. Bidders shall not submit more than one bid, except for alternative offers, if permitted. This will result in the disqualification of all bids in which the Bidder is involved. This includes situations where a firm is the Bidder in one bid and a sub-contractor on another; however, this does not limit the inclusion of a firm as a sub-contractor in more than one bid. In the case of procurement processes with lots, this provision shall apply on a lot by lot basis;
- A Bidder does not comply with any other conflict of interest situation relevant to the specific procurement process as specified in the solicitation document.

Bidders must disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest in the Quotation Submission Form and they shall be deemed ineligible for this procurement process unless such conflict of interest is resolved in a manner acceptable to UNOPS. Failure to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest may lead to the Bidder being sanctioned further to UNOPS policy on vendor sanctions.

A Bidder shall not be eligible to submit a quotation if and when at the time of quotation submission, the Bidder:

- is included in the Ineligibility List, hosted by [UNGM](#), that aggregates information disclosed by UNOPS ([UNOPS Ineligibility List](#)) and other Agencies, Funds or Programs of the UN System;
- is included in the [Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List](#), including the [UN Security Council Resolution 1267/1989 list](#);
- is included in the [World Bank Corporate Procurement Listing of Non-Responsible Vendors](#) and [World Bank Listing of Ineligible Firms and Individuals](#).

- is included in any other Ineligibility List from a UNOPS partner and if so listed in **Particulars Section on e-sourcing**.
- is currently suspended from doing business with UNOPS and removed from its vendor database(s), for reasons other than engaging in proscribed practices as defined in the UNOPS Procurement Manual.

All Bidders are expected to embrace the principles of the [United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct](#), given that it originates from the core values of the Charter of the United Nations. UNOPS also expects all its suppliers to adhere to the principles of the [United Nations Global Compact](#).

#### **4. CLARIFICATION OF THE RFQ**

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Bidders may request clarification in relation to the RFQ by submitting a written request **through the e-sourcing system only**, until the time stated in the **General Section on e-sourcing**. Explanations or interpretations provided by personnel other than the named contact person will not be considered binding or official.

#### **5. REMUNERATION FOR AND COSTS OF QUOTATIONS**

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Bidders shall not be entitled to any remuneration or compensation for the preparation and submission of their quotation.

#### **6. QUOTATION CURRENCY(IES)**

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The quotation shall be made in the currency(ies) stated in **Particulars Section on e-sourcing**. If applicable, for comparison and evaluation purposes, UNOPS will convert the quotations into USD at the official United Nations rate of exchange in force at the time of the deadline for quotation Submission.

UNOPS reserves the right not to reject any quotation submitted in a currency other than the mandatory bidding currency(ies). UNOPS may accept quotations submitted in another currency than stated above if the Bidder confirms during clarification of quotations in writing that it will accept a Contract issued in the mandatory quotation currency and that for conversion the official United Nations operational rate of exchange of the day of RFQ deadline as stated in Section I: RFQ Particulars shall apply. Regardless of the currency of quotations received, the Contract will always be issued and subsequent payments will be made in the mandatory bidding currency above.

Rates in quotations shall be fixed. Quotations with adjustable rates shall be disqualified.

#### **7. DUTIES AND TAXES**

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Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNOPS as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All quotations shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties, unless otherwise specified in **Particulars Section on e-sourcing**.

#### **8. PAYMENT TERMS**

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UNOPS will ordinarily effect payment within 30 days after receipt of the goods/services and on submission of payment documentation. Time in connection with discounts offered for accelerated payment will be computed from the date of receipt of payment documents by UNOPS. Payment discounts will not be considered in the financial evaluation.

#### **9. PUBLICATION OF CONTRACT AWARD**

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UNOPS shall publish in its website (<https://data.unops.org>) and/or the UNGM website (<https://www.ungm.org/Public/ContractAward/Index/ContractAwards>) information regarding the purchase order(s) or contract(s) awarded as a result of this RFQ.

UNOPS may debrief unsuccessful bidders upon receipt of a written request. The request for debrief must be received within 10 calendar days of the notification by UNOPS of the tender results to unsuccessful bidders.

and is a prerequisite for a bidder to file a bid protest, further to Article 12 below. UNOPS shall promptly respond in writing to any unsuccessful Bidder who requests a debriefing.

## **10. ETHICS AND PROSCRIBED PRACTICES**

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UNOPS requires that all Bidders observe the highest standard of ethics during the entire RFQ process, as well as the duration of any Contract that may be signed as a result of this process. Therefore, all Bidders shall represent and warrant that they:

- (i) have not unduly obtained, or attempted to unduly obtain, any confidential information in connection with the RFQ process and any Contract that may be signed as a result of this RFQ process;
- (ii) have no conflict of interest that would prevent them from entering into a Contract with UNOPS, and shall have no interest in other parties involved in this RFQ process or in the project underlying this RFQ process;
- (iii) have not engaged, or attempted to engage, in any Proscribed Practices in connection with this RFQ process or the Contract that may be awarded as a result of this RFQ process. For the purposes of this provision, Proscribed Practices are defined in the [UNOPS Vendor Sanctions Procedures](#), and include: corrupt practice, fraudulent practice, coercive practice, collusive practice, unethical practice and obstruction.

## **11. AUDIT**

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UNOPS may conduct investigations relating to any aspect of the Contract award at any time during the term of the Contract and for a period of three (3) years following the expiration or prior termination of the Contract. The Contractor shall provide its full and timely cooperation with any such inspections, post-payment audits or investigations. Such cooperation shall include, but shall not be limited to, the Contractor's obligation to make available its personnel and any relevant documentation for such purposes at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions and to grant to UNOPS access to the Contractor's premises at reasonable times and on reasonable conditions in connection with such access to the Contractor's personnel and relevant documentation. The Contractor shall require its agents, including, but not limited to, the Contractor's attorneys, accountants or other advisers, to reasonably cooperate with any inspections, post-payment audits or investigations carried out by UNOPS hereunder

## **12. BID PROTEST**

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Any bidder that believes to have been unjustly treated in connection with this solicitation process may submit a complaint to UNOPS' Director of Implementation Practices and Standards through the [bid.protest@unops.org](mailto:bid.protest@unops.org) email address. For a bid protest to be received and substantially assessed, the vendor must have requested a debrief further to Article 9 and submits the bid protest within 10 calendar days of UNOPS providing the debrief. In the unlikely event that UNOPS does not provide a debrief within 15 calendar days of the vendor's request further to Article 9 above the vendor may present a bid protest within 10 calendar days of the expiry of said 15 calendar day period. For further details on bid protests, please refer to the UNOPS Procurement Manual.

## **13. ALTERNATE QUOTATIONS**

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Bidders shall not submit more than one quotation per Bidder in this process, with the exception of alternative offers if so provided for in RFQ Particulars. Where the conditions for its acceptance are met, UNOPS reserves the right to award a contract based on an alternative bid.

If RFQ Particulars states that alternative quotations shall not be accepted, then these will not be evaluated. If a bidder submits more than one quotation:

All quotations marked as "Alternative quotations" will be disqualified and only the quotation marked as "Initial quotation" will be evaluated; or,

All quotations will be rejected if no indication is provided as to which quotation is the original quotation and which is/are the alternative quotation (s).