

Replies to Bidder's Queries (Batch-1)
Tender ID: USF/BSDPROJECTS/MONITORING AUDITOR/2020/01

April 21, 2020

S#	Bidder Query	Document Ref	USF Reply
1.	<p>While going through the RFP documents we have come across below clause which is part of RFP main document. As per below clause all subcons working on any service provider's network may not be eligible for this RFP SOW. Since we are already working for almost all the CMOs/SPs. Therefore, if you could further explain this clause to clearly understand whether or not it will inhibit us to acquire the role of monitoring auditor. Clause is reproduced here</p> <p><i>"All technically qualified auditors shall be eligible for monitoring services, provided there is no conflict of interest. For instance, a monitoring audit firm engaged by the service provider or USF for design of the same network, which is to be monitored, will be considered as a conflict of interest. Similarly, subcontractors engaged in installation and commissioning services of the same service provider's network may not be eligible. The monitoring audit firm may not employ any person for performance of tasks under this contract, if that person is in any way, professionally or otherwise, associated with the service provider whose network is to be monitored. The services shall be liable to immediate termination, once any conflict of interest is noticed or brought to the notice of USF"</i></p>	RFP	<p>The clause you are referring to and have reproduced in your query is clause B, sub clause h. This should be read with sub-clause d of clause A, which says;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">d. <i>"The responsibilities of MA are different from the responsibilities of Technical Auditor, who is hired and engaged by USF for the evaluation of various projects. Therefore, the MA shall not be eligible to bid for monitoring of a lot for which he has already been engaged as technical auditor or for which the applicant has rendered consultancy services at the time of project planning and/or implementation or in any case where in USF Co's opinion there may be a conflict of interest."</i></p> <p>The above clause clearly defines the conflict of interest. Similarly, the purpose of sub clause h of clause B is that if the MA has rendered or is rendering its services for a Service Provider on a particular project and the MA intends to participate in the bid for USF Monitoring Audit activities for the same project, in that case, the MA shall not be eligible and shall be disqualified for the award of the contract of the said monitoring audit project due to conflict of interest."</p>

2.	<p>This is with reference to subjected tender, due to current country condition, it's not possible to travel or purchase tender. Kindly advise how we can proceed online?</p>		<p>Assuming that you are referring to our tender advertisement at the following URL https://usf.org.pk/procurements-detail/333, you can download information package from USF website (link given at the end of the tender advertisement page) and prepare your Technical proposal according to guidelines mentioned in RFP, and submit it to "Chief Officer Quality Assurance and Monitoring" office by closing date mentioned on advertisement i.e. April 30, 2020.</p> <p>You are also advised to keep on visiting our website for any future updates in this regard.</p> <p>Note: in case you face trouble opening the information package (RAR format) kindly upgrade your software from https://www.rarlab.com/download.htm.</p>
3.	<p>We are highly interested in working with USF and in the submission of aforementioned bid.</p> <p>But due to this ongoing situation (nationwide lockdown) and restricted movement of personnel it is difficult to meet the submission timeline of 09th April 2020.</p> <p>Hence, it is requested to kindly extend the submission date by 2-3 weeks so that the submission could be made with some ease.</p> <p>In addition to our above request. I would like to highlight the issue with the information package available on USF website along with the tenders.</p> <p>This information is a compressed file .rar which is having issues and not extracting well.</p>		<p>Due to unprecedented circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the bidding deadline of subject tender is hereby extended. Bids can now be submitted on or before 30th April 2020 till 1100 hours and will be opened on the same date at 1130 hours.</p> <p>As regards the issue with opening of documents on website (https://usf.org.pk/procurements-detail/333), kindly update your software from https://www.rarlab.com/download.htm. The issue will be resolved.</p>