

Additional information about the Contract Notice

EU support to reforms in water sector services Location - Republic of Serbia

1. Nature of contract

Global price

2. Programme title

Annual Action Programme for Serbia for the year 2017

3. Financing

Financial Agreement

4. Eligibility and rules of origin

Participation is open to all natural persons who are nationals of and legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping – consortium – of candidates/tenderers) which are effectively established in a Member State of the European Union or in a eligible country or territory as defined under the Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action (CIR) for the applicable instrument under which the contract is financed (see also heading 'Legal basis' below). Participation is also open to international organisations.

For UK candidates or tenderers: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union and to goods originating from an eligible country, as defined under Regulation (EU) No 236/2014** and Annex IV of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement***, are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in, and to goods originating from, the United Kingdom ****. Those persons and goods are therefore eligible under this call.

* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

** Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

*** Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (OJ L196/40, 3.7.2014)

**** including the Overseas Countries and Territories having special relations with the United Kingdom, as laid down in Part Four and Annex II of the TFEU

5. Candidature

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 4 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 partners of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other partners) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation of an ineligible natural or legal person 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.

6. Number of applications or tenders

No more than one application or tender can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or partner of a consortium submitting an application/tender). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than one application or tender, all applications or tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded.

In case of lots, the candidates or tenderers may submit only one application or tender per lot. Contracts will be awarded lot by lot and each lot will form a separate contract.

7. Information meeting and/or site visit

No information meeting is planned

8. Tender validity

Tenders must remain valid for a period of 3 months after the deadline for submission of tenders. In exceptional circumstances, the contracting authority may, before the validity period expires, request that tenderers extend the validity of tenders for a specific period.

9. Shortlist alliances prohibited

Any tenders received from tenderers having a different composition than the ones mentioned in the short-listed application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure, unless prior approval from the contracting authority has been obtained – see practical guide 2.6.3. Short-listed candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

10. Grounds for exclusion

Candidates or tenderers must submit a signed declaration, included in the application form or tender form, to the effect that they are not in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1. of the **practical guide (PRAG)**.

Candidates or tenderers included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG) at the moment of the award decision cannot be awarded the contract.

11. Sub-contracting

Sub-contracting is allowed.

12. Number of candidates to be short-listed

On the basis of the applications received, between 4 and 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. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is more than the maximum allowed, the contracting authority will rank them using the re-examination criteria stated below.

13. Provisional date of invitation to tender

March 2021

14. Provisional commencement date of the contract

November 2021

15. Period of implementation of tasks

24 months

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

16. 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 if not specified otherwise. The selection criteria will not be applied to natural persons and single-member companies when they are sub-contractors.

The selection criteria for each tenderer are as follows:

1) Economic and financial capacity (based on item 3 of the service application form). In case of candidate being a public body, equivalent information should be provided. The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years for which accounts have been closed.

- a) The average annual turnover of the candidate over the last three years for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1,000,000.00 EUR; and
- b) Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last three years for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium this criterion must be fulfilled by each member.

2) Professional capacity (based on items 4 and 5 of the application form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

At least 5 staff currently work for the candidate in the field related to this contract.

3) Technical capacity (based on items 5 and 6 of the application form). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last five years from submission deadline.

- a) The candidate has provided services under at least one (1) project (with a value of the services carried out by the candidate being at least 1,000,000 EUR) which includes reform of utility services system that includes water services, public water supply and sewerage services (the collection, treatment and discharge of waste water).

AND

- b) The candidate has provided services under at least one (1) project (with a value of the services carried out by the candidate being at least 1,000,000 EUR in each project) which includes the development of tariff model with regulatory system for water services.

This means that the project the candidate refers to could have been started at any time during the indicated period but it does not necessarily have to be completed during that period, nor implemented during the entire period. Candidates are allowed to refer either to projects completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects not yet completed. Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence (statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of payment) also detailing its value. If a candidate has implemented the project in a consortium, the percentage that the candidate has successfully completed must be clear from the documentary evidence, together with a description of the nature of the services provided if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

Previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority shall not be used as reference.

Capacity-providing entities

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. If the economic operator 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 by producing a commitment by 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 relying on them and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be provided when requested by the contracting authority.

With regard to technical and professional criteria, an economic operator may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the tasks for which these capacities are required.

With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the economic operator relies, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

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 in order to rank their applications and identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. The only additional comparative criteria that which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination, in the order in which they appear below, are:

- 1) Higher number of the reference projects which meet criteria 3.a) and 3. b);
- 2) The cumulative value (the portion carried out by the candidate) of the reference projects which meet criterion 3.a).

N.B.: additional comparative criterion No 1 shall be applied to all the eligible candidates that meet the selection criteria. If, after applying additional comparative criterion No 1, it is not possible to identify the 8 best candidates because two or more candidates are tied for the 8th position, additional comparative criterion No 2 shall be applied only to these tied candidates.

17. Award criteria

Best price-quality ratio.

APPLICATION AND TENDERING

18. 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 from the following Internet address:

<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?isAnnexes=true>

The application must be accompanied by a declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria using the template available from the following Internet address:

<https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?isAnnexes=true>

Any documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an application in addition to what has been requested will not be taken into consideration.

19. How applications may be submitted

Applications must be submitted in English exclusively to the contracting authority in a sealed envelope.

- Either by post or by courier service, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to:

Ministry of Finance, Government of the Republic of Serbia

Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU)
Division for Tender Evaluation and Contracting
Sremska St, 3-5, VII floor, office 701, Belgrade, 11 000
Republic of Serbia

- OR hand delivered by the participant in person or by an agent directly to the premises of the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by this acknowledgement of receipt, to:

Ministry of Finance, Government of the Republic of Serbia
Department for Contracting and Financing of EU Funded Programmes (CFCU)
Division for Tender Evaluation and Contracting
Sremska St, 3-5, VII floor, office 701, Belgrade, 11 000
Republic of Serbia
Opening hours: 8.30 h to 15.00 h, Central European Time Monday to Friday

The contract title and publication reference (see contract notice) 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.

By submitting an application candidates accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means. Such notification shall be deemed to have been received on the date upon which the contracting authority sends it to the electronic address referred to in the application form.

20. Deadline for submission of applications

The candidate's attention is drawn to the fact that there are two different systems for sending applications: one is by post or private mail service, the other is by hand delivery.

In the first case, the application must be sent before the date and time limit for submission, as evidenced by the postmark or deposit slip¹, but in the second case it is the acknowledgment of receipt given at the time of the delivery of the application that will serve as proof.

The deadline for submission of applications can be found in the Contract Notice under IV.2.2.

Any application sent to the contracting authority after this deadline will not be considered.

In case the tender is submitted by post or private mail service, the tenderers must inform Contracting Authority that the tender was sent and enclose a copy of the deposit slip by sending an email to address ec@mfin.gov.rs

The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any application submitted on time but received, for any reason beyond the contracting authority's control, after the effective date of approval of the short-list report, if accepting applications that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the evaluation procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified.

21. Clarifications on the contract notice

Clarifications may be sought from the contracting authority at the following email address cfcu.questions@mfin.gov.rs at the latest 21 days before the deadline for submission of applications stated at section **IV.2.2) of the contract notice**.

Clarifications will be published on TED eTendering accessible from the F&T portal at

¹ It is recommended to use registered mail in case the postmark would not be readable.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

at the latest 5 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

22. Alteration or withdrawal of applications

Applicants 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 precedent item. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.

23. Language of the procedure

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

24. Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action and Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)- See Annex A2 of the practical guide.

25. Additional information

Financial data to be provided by the candidate in the standard application form or the tenderer in the tender form must be expressed in EUR. If applicable, where a candidate refers to amounts originally expressed in a different currency, the conversion to EUR shall be made in accordance with the InforEuro exchange rate of **December 2020**, which can be found at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.

Please note that, in order to ensure efficient electronic correspondence with the Contracting Authority, candidates must provide e-mail addresses capable of receiving e-mails of at least 20 MB (twenty Megabytes) or else specify their inbox size.

Any tenderer seeking to arrange individual meetings with the Contracting Authority and/or the government of the partner country and/or the European Commission concerning this contract during the application period may be excluded from the application procedure.

When filling in the standard Application Form, and in particular items 3, 4, 5 and 6 herein, candidates must provide all information necessary to allow the Short-list Panel to assess their compliance with the selection criteria under points 16.1), 16.2) and 16.3) above.

Particularly, Candidates are strongly recommended to provide clear description of the overall project and full project details in item 6 of the standard Application Form, sections "Detailed description of project".

In the section "Type of services provided" candidates are requested to separately, list only those activities which have been carried out by the candidates themselves, excluding activities carried out e.g. by other members of a previously formed consortium (who are not part of the application for this tender procedure. Completion dates of projects or of relevant projects components (see criterion 16.3) must be clearly stated.