

<p>Consulting Services For The Study On The Determinants Of Female Labor Force Participation In The Philippines</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorized representatives from the following consultants attended the pre-bid conference of the subject procurement:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Ms. Vera B. Velecina – ASCEND;</li> <li>ii. Ms. Dianne Carmie J. Basilio – ASCEND; and</li> <li>iii. Mr. Marco Alfredo C. Sision – ASPSI.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. End-User representative and member of the TWG from the NEDA Social Development Staff are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Girlie Grace Casimiro- Igtiben – End-User; and</li> <li>ii. Anna Clarissa S. Abesamis –TWG.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Following are the clarifications raised:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Item VI.2.2.                   <p>Ms. Velecina asked for the sources of data using quantitative approach and added that the methodology in gathering data mentioned in Terms of Reference (TOR) such as Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Personnel Interview are qualitative in nature. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben said that the Consultants must not be limited to qualitative approach, but also use the quantitative approach as well in data gathering. She added that the Consultants use the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. any econometric modelling deemed fit to determine work participation.</li> <li>b. government official data as a source document for the study such as the Philippine Statistics Office (PSA)</li> </ol> </li> <li>ii. Breakdown of Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)                   <p>Ms. Velecina pointed out that the travel expenses of the attendees who will join the final paper presentation were not mentioned in the breakdown of ABC and requested</p> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NBAC-CS instructed the Secretariat to draft bid bulletin for clarifications raised in the pre-bid.</li> </ul>
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	<p>clarification if the said travel expenses are not included in the Consultants' Scope of Services. In response, Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben said that the participants through their Agency funds will shouldered their travel expenses going to the final paper presentation venue. Furthermore, the Chairperson asked the End-User for the list of participants in the said activity. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben replied that they still have no list of attendees for the final paper presentation. She added that the composition is a Manila based government agencies and civil society organizations as participants.</p> <p>Mr. Sison clarified if the Key Experts should work full time within the period of six (6) months or six (6) man-months on a staggered basis. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben said that the contract duration would run for six (6) months from receipt of the Notice to Proceed (NTP) and the project must be finished within the prescribed period. She added that the Consulting firm must nominate one (1) Economist, as Team Leader and one (1) Gender Expert during the entire contract duration of six (6) months.</p> <p>Mr. Sison further inquired for the breakdown of ABC showing the percentage apportioned for remuneration and reimbursable expenses. The Secretariat responded that the Consulting Services is a Lump Sum contract.</p> <p>On the other hand, Director Pineda reminded the Bidders for the applicable government taxes and other charges. He said that the whole lump sum contract amount is subject to 12% VAT and NEDA shall withhold a Final VAT of five percent (5%) and (15%) creditable Expanded Withholding Tax (EWT) on the total of Lump Sum Amount (exclusive of 12% VAT). Any bid with a financial component exceeding the ABC shall be grounds for disqualification.</p>	
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	<p>iii. Item VI.2.1</p> <p>The Chairperson emphasized that the nominated Consultants must be physically available for meetings/consultations at the NEDA Central Office when required by the NEDA to be present for the entire duration of the project.</p> <p>iv. Implementation Period</p> <p>Ms. Velecina asked for the actual date of engagement and the indicative timeline of the study so they can ask their Consultants for their availability. The Chairperson informed the Bidders that the detailed indicative timeline as shown in Annex B of TOR and the actual date of engagement will commence upon receipt of the NTP. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben informed the NBAC-CS that the commitment of the nominated Consultants must be part of the technical proposal.</p> <p>On the query of Ms. Velecina on the actual date of engagement, the Chairperson informed the bidders that the estimated engagement would be by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October upon the date of issuance of NTP. The NBA-CS Secretariat said that the drafting of inception report would commence 1<sup>st</sup> week of November.</p> <p>v. Item VI.2.4</p> <p>Ms. Velecina asked whether geographic basis would be used in the study rather than the woman profiling. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben explained that the geography has an effect on the labor force participation. Mostly for women living in rural areas were engaged in the agriculture sector, while women in urban areas were engaged in commerce and enterprises. She added that Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were also contributing to the cultural differences.</p>	
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	<p>On other hand, Mr. Sison clarified whether the Consultants will choose randomly the areas where the FGD will be conducted. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben responded that as part of the deliverables, the Consulting Firm must propose a criterion in selecting rural and urban areas where the FGD will be conducted.</p> <p>Mr. Sison also asked if NEDA would allow the Consulting Firm to submit the billing statements upon submission of deliverables. The Secretariat said that NEDA is not prohibiting the Consulting Firm to submit the billing statements upon submission of the deliverables. However, NEDA will process the said payment upon acceptance of the required documents.</p> <p>Furthermore, Mr. Sison noted that the contract duration would run for six (6) months. He asked whether NEDA would allow the contract time extension in case of force majeure. The Secretariat said that in case of force majeure during the contract implementation, the NEDA might allow extension of the contract if the Consulting Firm has justifiable reasons. The Secretariat also informed the Bidders that the project is a fixed price contract. Any approved time extension of the contract shall not involve any additional cost to the Government. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben also added that as End-User, they discourage contract extension.</p> <p>vi. Mr. Sison asked who would be the focal person from NEDA for this study. Ms. Casimiro-Igtiben said that the Social Development Staff (SDS), as End-user would be the focal on this study.</p> <p>vii. Since there were no more questions in the TOR, the Secretariat discussed the following additional reminders to proponents/bidders:</p>	
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	<p>a. Indicate <b><u>actual man-months</u></b> for experience and <b><u>actual man-hours or man-days</u></b> for training of nominated experts;</p> <p>b. Bid Security may be in any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Bid Securing Declaration</u></b> – should be notarized with government-issued ID (<i>Note: CTC is no longer accepted as a competent evidence of identity</i>); or</li> <li>2. <b><u>Cash, cashier's/manager's check, bank draft/guarantee/irrevocable letter of credit</u></b> – 2% of ABC; or</li> <li>3. <b><u>Surety Bond</u></b> – 5% of ABC.</li> </ol> <p>c. Use <b><u>up to date forms</u></b> (<i>follow the format of the forms included in the bidding documents</i>) and ensure that these are properly notarized (e.g. CV of nominated experts, Omnibus Sworn Statement, Bid Securing Declaration);</p> <p>d. Deadline for additional queries and requests for clarification is <b><u>10 calendar days</u></b> before the deadline for submission of proposals. The NBAC-CS <b><u>may respond</u></b> through bid bulletin not later than <b><u>7 calendar days</u></b> before the deadline for submission of proposals; and</p> <p>e. Deadline for submission of proposals – Observe timeliness; <b><u>1 minute late is strictly considered LATE.</u></b></p>	
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