

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Title: Utility-scale solar project
Issue Date: January 18, 2023
Closing Date: February 3, 2023
Questions Due: January 25, 2023
Closing Time: 17hrs (5 pm) Beirut, Lebanon time
Subject: USAID Contract No. 72026821C00002
Project: Innovation for Affordable and Renewable Energy for All (INARA)

Purpose:

- DT Global seeks to identify and shortlist professional engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) firms to bring advanced engineering and construction expertise to support the project delivery for a utility-scale solar PV project implemented in Lebanon.
- DT Global advises EPC firms that a Request for Proposal for a utility-scale solar PV project will be opened. The sourcing event is forecasted for Feb- March 2023

Project background:

DT Global is currently implementing the USAID-funded project for the Innovation for Affordable and Renewable Energy for All (INARA). USAID's goal for INARA Activity is to increase the supply of electricity; and to increase the power supply's cost effectiveness, eco-friendliness, sustainability, and reliability, while clarifying and strengthening the enabling environment for renewable energy (RE).

The INARA Activity's purpose is to maximize access to power for the largest number of beneficiaries possible through increasing Lebanon's supply of renewable energy. To achieve this purpose, the Contractor, DT Global, through the INARA Activity, will propagate renewable energy systems in Lebanon.

Within the context of USAID's goal, the INARA Activity wishes to contract the services of an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) company to execute all works including the supply, installation, commissioning and operation and maintenance of a utility scale Solar Photovoltaic (PV) plant consisting of PV generators, inverters, structures, monitoring and control systems, auxiliary equipment, electrical protection and civil and electrical works.

The Scope of Works

The works under this project shall consist of supplying all the components, installing, testing, handing over in good operating condition, and operating and maintaining for a period of 2 (two) years a utility-scale ground-mounted solar system of a capacity between 5MW and 7MW.

The main components include:

- Solar modules.
- Inverters (grid-tied/hybrid)
- Mounting structures.
- Battery energy storage system.
- Two Medium Voltage step-up transformers.
- Monitoring, communication, and control system (SCADA).
- Electrical protection and control.
- Plant auxiliary system including but not limited to DC, AC low-voltage, etc.
- Guard room.
- Electrical room.

- CCTV system.
- Electrical and mechanical balance of system components.
- Structural balance of system components (including security fence and perimeter lighting).
- All necessary civil works (structures and erection).
- All necessary electrical work (including earthing and lightning protection).
- Point of common coupling with the grid.
- Handing over, documentation and training.
- Operation and maintenance for a period of 2 (two) years.

The Subcontractor shall provide all necessary components, except otherwise specified, and accessories as well as manpower, scaffolding, civil works, etc., to install a complete operational system.

Minimum eligibility criteria:

Interested EPC firms who wish to submit an expression of interest shall be a Lebanese registered company or a combination of maximum two (2) companies in the form of joint venture with a formal intent to enter together into an agreement.

In case of a JV, the Lebanese party shall act as the lead entity and have the authority to conduct all businesses for and on behalf of the JV during the bidding process and, in the event the JV is awarded the contract, during the contract execution.

EPC firms shall meet the following eligibility requirements and qualifications:

Criteria	Eligibility requirement			Document required
	Single entity	Joint venture		
		All partners combined	Local partner	
Successful experience as a main contractor for EPC services of solar power plants with similar cost and complexity	10 years of experience	10 years of experience	8 years of experience	List of completed projects for the required years of experience
Experience in similar solar PV projects	10 projects with a minimum capacity of 3.5MWp each including at least 2 projects with minimum capacity of 5MWp	10 projects with a minimum capacity of 3.5MWp each including at least 2 projects with minimum capacity of 5MWp	At least 2 projects with a minimum capacity of 500kWp each	Letters of satisfactory completion

Experience in battery energy storage solutions	10 projects with a minimum capacity of 1MWh each including at least 2 projects with minimum capacity of 5MWh	10 projects with a minimum capacity of 1MWh each including at least 2 projects with minimum capacity of 5MWh	At least 2 projects with a minimum capacity of 100kWh each	Letters of satisfactory completion
Average annual contract turnover for the past 3 years (2019, 2020 and 2021)	US\$ 5,000,000 (five million USD)	US\$ 5,000,000 (five million USD)	US\$ 500,000 (five hundred thousand USD)	Audited financial reports for the last three years
Min. Average Quick Ratio	1.0	1.0	1.0	
History of non-performing contracts and/or Litigation	None during the past three years	None during the past three years	None during the past three years	Attorney letter

Note: Only short-listed individual firms or Joint Venture (JV) shall be considered for the bid solicitation in the future. Firms looking to form a JV in the future should submit a letter of intent detailing the JV formation.

Submission details

- What to submit:

- Technical information about previous similar projects and experience to meet the above eligibility requirements.
- Joint-venture letter of intent (if applicable).
- Reference points for previous relevant experience and projects (Letters of satisfactory completion as per the above eligibility requirements).
- Company/companies certificate of registration.
- Proof of financial capacity documents (audited financial reports for the past three years as per the above eligibility requirements).
- Internal policies on risk management.
- Professional insurance, quality control, safeguarding, and similar.

- Supplementary documentation

- Company/companies profile.
- Organizational structure with resumes of key personnel.
- Standard implementation methodology and approach.

The submission should not exceed 40 pages (supplemental documentation are considered additional and should be annexed). Interested firms should provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services related to the construction of renewable energy-based hybrid systems and systems applied on the distribution or community level. Interested companies should aim to demonstrate that they have the resources and capacity to service the project (i.e., construction equipment, testing and commissioning tools, trained technicians, etc.)

Instructions

Submittal /Closing Date

Expressions of interest should be received by mail procurement_inara@dt-global.com

no later than 5:00 PM local time on **February 3, 2023**. Late submittals will be considered at the discretion of the Project,

Questions and Clarifications

All questions and/or clarifications regarding this EOI must be submitted via email to: procurement_inara@dt-global.com no later than 5:00 PM local time on **January 25, 2023**. All correspondence and/or inquiries regarding this solicitation must reference the EOI number in the subject line of your email. No phone calls or in-person inquiries will be entertained; all questions and inquiries must be in writing.

EOI from firms failing to provide the requested information will be disregarded. Request for Proposals and any subsequent purchase order will be issued in accordance with the rule and procedures of DT Global and USAID.

This EOI does not entail any commitment on the part of DT Global, either financial or otherwise. DT Global reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant(s) of the grounds.

Geographic Code

The following applies to this EOI, all related correspondence, and any resulting subcontract:

A. Application: The source and nationality of all goods and services provided to the Project must meet the USAID geographic code 937 requirements in accordance with 22 CFR part 228.

B. No items, items with components from, or related services may be offered from the following countries: Cuba, Iran, Syria, North Korea, Myanmar (Burma), and North Sudan. Related services include incidental services pertaining to any/all aspects of this Work to be performed under a resulting subcontract (Including transportation fuel lodging meals, and communications expenses).

C. The future RFP and procurement shall be subject to the United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regulations and the U.S. Government Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA). The act prohibits funding of forced labor among ethnic minorities in Xinjiang region of China. To comply with this act, the United States Government has implemented a blanket prohibition on providing direct government financing to international solar projects that source from suppliers from Xinjiang region. The prohibition includes the following companies:

- Hoshine Silicon Industry (metallurgical grade silicon and silicon products) – also subject to a WRO
- Xinjiang Daqo New Energy (polysilicon, wafers)
- Xinjiang East Hope Nonferrous Metals (polysilicon, ingots, wafers)
- Xinjiang GCL-New Energy Material (polysilicon, ingots, wafers, cells, modules)
- Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (state-owned paramilitary organization, electricity supplier)

Evaluation and Selection Process

Offer Verification

DT Global may contact the offeror to confirm the contact person, address information, and to verify that the offer was submitted in response to this request for EOI.

Evaluation

Expression of Interest and other submission materials will be reviewed and evaluated by a review committee.

DT Global reserves the right to change, cancel, or reject this EOI at any time during this Request for EOI and future solicitation process, if any.

Accuracy of information

Offerors must provide full, accurate, and complete information as required by this request for expression of interest. If, at any time, DT Global determines that an offeror has provided false statements in the response, DT Global may reject the response without further consideration.

DT Global reserves the right to require compliance with additional conditions as and when issuing the final solicitation documents, if an offeror is pre-selected.

Disclaimer and protection clauses

- This EOI is not intended to result in the direct issuance of a contract.
- DT Global may cancel this request for expression of interest.
- DT Global may reject any or all responses.
- DT Global reserves the right to disqualify any offer based on the offerors failure to follow EOI instructions.
- DT Global will not compensate offerors for a response to this EOI.
- DT Global may request from short-listed offerors a second or third round of either an oral presentation or written response to a more specific and detailed statement of work.