

Request for Quotation (RFQ)

RFQ Number: LED RFQ- 253

Issuance Date: May 27, 2021

Deadline for Offers: June 9, 2021

Description: Compost Farm

For: LED-Lebanon

Funded By: United States Agency for International Development (USAID),
Contract No. AID-268-17-C-00001-00

Implemented By: Chemonics Beirut S.A.R.L

Point of Contact: Roger Karam

******* ETHICAL AND BUSINESS CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS *******

Chemonics is committed to integrity in procurement, and only selects suppliers based on objective business criteria such as price and technical merit. Chemonics expects suppliers to comply with our Standards of Business Conduct, available at <http://www.chemonics.com/OurStory/OurMissionAndValues/Standards-of-Business-Conduct/Pages/default.aspx>.

Chemonics does not tolerate fraud, collusion among offerors, falsified proposals/bids, bribery, or kickbacks. Any firm or individual violating these standards will be disqualified from this procurement, barred from future procurement opportunities, and may be reported to both USAID and the Office of the Inspector General.

Employees and agents of Chemonics are strictly prohibited from asking for or accepting any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, object of value or compensation from current or potential vendors or suppliers in exchange for or as a reward for business. Employees and agents engaging in this conduct are subject to termination and will be reported to USAID and the Office of the Inspector General. In addition, Chemonics will inform USAID and the Office of the Inspector General of any supplier offers of money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, object of value, or compensation to obtain business.

Offerors responding to this RFQ must include the following as part of the proposal submission:

- Disclose any close, familial, or financial relationships with Chemonics or project staff. For example, if an offeror's cousin is employed by the project, the offeror must state this.
- Disclose any family or financial relationship with other offerors submitting proposals. For example, if the offeror's father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the offeror must state this.
- Certify that the prices in the offer have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
- Certify that all information in the proposal and all supporting documentation are authentic and accurate.
- Certify understanding and agreement to Chemonics' prohibitions against fraud, bribery and kickbacks.

Please contact Douglas Griffith, dgriffith@chemonics.com with any questions or concerns regarding the above information or to report any potential violations. Potential violations may also be reported directly to Chemonics' Washington office through the contact information listed on the website found at the hyperlink above.

Section 1: Instructions to Offerors

1. **Introduction:** Chemonics, through Chemonics Beirut S.A.R.L., acting on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Lebanon Enterprise Development (LED) Project, under contract number AID-268-C-17-00001, is soliciting proposals from **Lebanese Individual Consultant** that can support our clients on the below scope of work.

Offerors are responsible for ensuring that their offers are received by Chemonics in accordance with the instructions, terms, and conditions described in this RFQ. Failure to adhere with instructions described in this RFQ may lead to disqualification of an offer from consideration.

Offerors should take note that this RFQ does not obligate Chemonics to execute a subcontract nor does it commit Chemonics to pay for any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any proposals for this solicitation. Furthermore, Chemonics reserves the right to reject any and all offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of Chemonics.

2. **Offer Deadline and Protocol:** Offerors shall submit their proposals electronically in accordance with the instructions below:
 - **Technical and financial** offers must be received no later than **4 pm** local Beirut time on **June 9, 2021** by email to LEDprocurement@lebanon-edp.com
 - **Technical offer ONLY shall be submitted to the client.** It is the responsibility of the offeror to share contact information of the client and send the technical offer before the above-mentioned deadline.

Please reference the RFQ number **253** in any response to this RFQ. Offers received after the specified time and date will be considered late and will be considered only at the discretion of Chemonics.

3. **Questions:** Questions regarding the technical should be asked to the client directly during site visit & questions regarding administrative requirements of this RFQ may be submitted no later than **4 pm** local Beirut time on **June 7, 2021** by email to LEDprocurement@lebanon-edp.com Questions must be submitted in writing; phone calls will not be accepted. Questions and requests for clarification—and the responses thereto—that Chemonics believes may be of interest to other offerors will be circulated to all RFQ recipients who have indicated an interest in bidding. Only the written answers issued by Chemonics will be considered official and carry weight in the RFQ process and subsequent evaluation. Any verbal information received from employees of Chemonics or any other entity should not be considered as an official response to any questions regarding this RFQ.
4. **Scope of Work:** Section 3 contains the scope of work of the required service.
5. **Quotations:** Quotations in response to this RFQ must be priced on a Level-of-effort (Number of working days) term contract, all-inclusive basis, including delivery and all other costs. **Pricing must be presented in USD** and offers must remain valid for not less than thirty (30) calendar days after the offer deadline. Offerors are requested to provide quotations on their official quotation format or letterhead;

In addition, offerors responding to this RFQ are requested to submit the following:

- Copy of CV
- Copy of education certificates
- Previous work experience

- Copy of passport/ID
 - MOF registration (if applicable)
6. **Taxes and VAT:** The agreement under which this procurement is financed is not exempt from the payment of taxes, tariffs, duties, or other levies imposed by any laws in effect in the Cooperating Country. Therefore, offerors must include taxes, charges, tariffs, duties and levies in accordance with the laws of the Cooperating Country.
According to the Lebanese Law a 7.5% will be deducted as Non- Resident tax from Individuals who are not registered.
Chemonics Beirut SARL is VAT exempted all invoices issued will be stamped and signed with a special stamp filled in detail as mentioned in the agreement with the ministry of finance.
7. **Eligibility:** By submitting an offer in response to this RFQ, the offeror certifies that it and its principal officers are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise considered ineligible for an award by the U.S. Government. Chemonics will not award a contract to any firm that is debarred, suspended, or considered to be ineligible by the U.S. Government.
8. **Evaluation Criteria:** The award will be made to a responsible offeror whose offer follows the RFQ instructions, meets the eligibility requirements, and is determined via a trade-off analysis to be the best value based on application of the following evaluation criteria. The relative importance of each individual criterion is indicated by the number of points below
1. *Cost (Daily Rate x Man-days): 25 Points*
 2. *Man-days reasonableness: 10 Points*
 2. *Offeror's qualification, expertise & past experience: 20 Points*
 3. *Scope of Work: 20 Points*
 4. *Site Visit & Client feedback: 20 Points*
 5. *Timeline: 5 Points*

In case you have already an established daily rate with LED, this rate shall be fixed for a at least six month.

Follow-up discussions may be conducted with several Consultant(s) to resolve any questions, finalize the scope of work and agreement on final not-to-exceed costs as a means to recommend final selection to Chemonics.

Please note that if there are significant deficiencies regarding responsiveness to the requirements of this RFQ, an offer may be deemed "non-responsive" and thereby disqualified from consideration. Chemonics reserves the right to waive immaterial deficiencies at its discretion.

Best-offer quotations are requested. It is anticipated that award will be made solely on the basis of these original quotations. However, Chemonics reserves the right to conduct any of the following:

- Chemonics may conduct negotiations with and/or request clarifications from any offeror prior to award.
- While preference will be given to offerors who can address the full technical requirements of this RFQ, Chemonics may issue a partial award or split the award among various suppliers, if in the best interest of the Lebanon LED Project.

- Chemonics may cancel this RFQ at any time.

Please note that in submitting a response to this RFQ, the offeror understands that USAID is not a party to this solicitation and the offeror agrees that any protest hereunder must be presented—in writing with full explanations—to the Lebanon-LED Project for consideration, as USAID will not consider protests regarding procurements carried out by implementing partners. Chemonics, at its sole discretion, will make a final decision on the protest for this procurement.

9. **Terms and Conditions:** This is a Request for Proposal only. Issuance of this RFQ does not in any way obligate Chemonics, the LED Project, or USAID to make an award or pay for costs incurred by potential offerors in the preparation and submission of an offer.

This solicitation is subject to Chemonics' standard terms and conditions. Any resultant award will be governed by these terms and conditions; a copy of the full terms and conditions is available upon request.

Section 2: Offer Checklist

To assist offerors in preparation of proposals, the following checklist summarizes the documentation to include an offer in response to this RFQ:

- Offer Cover Letter
- SOW
- Timeline
- Man-days
- Cost in USD
- Copy of CV
- Copy of education certificates
- Previous work experience
- Copy of passport/ID
- MOF registration (if applicable)

Section 3: Scope of Work

A- Description of the Client

Agriculture Trading Company SAL (dba Franje) Main Road Near Saydet Al Najat Monastery Hboub – Jbeil

Franje SAL is an organic farm established in 2011 in Hboub – Jbeil, producing four varieties of mushrooms: white bottom, portobello, oyster, and shiitake; in addition to thyme, rosemary, basil, and other herbs. They are using the most advanced systems to grow healthy, sustainable, and fresh produce.

The farm is a modern planting facility that covers 10,000 square meters and includes 18 houses where the mushrooms are grown before being transported to a packing room and sold the next day to the market; 14 of the houses are currently in operation. It takes about three weeks to produce the first mushrooms for harvest. The farm is characterized by its clean environment which is a main pillar to the success of any mushroom business.

Franje is supplying local groceries and restaurants with mushrooms.

With the unfortunate increase in the US dollar's value against the LBP, the cost of the substrate, a key ingredient in mushroom production, became too expensive, and considering the import barrier, Franje's owner began preparing to create a compost farm. The compost is typically used as soil amendments and fertilizers, and it improves the soil structure and retains nutrients.

The owner has not started working on the project because he needs a consultant's advice on the infrastructure engineering; however, the investment is secured in his bank account. According to the client, this project will provide jobs for residents of the Jbeil region, as well as offer farmers the opportunity to supply Franje with the necessary raw materials.

In the local market, eight mushroom farms exist and Franje discussed with them the possibility to supply them with the locally produced compost.

Besides, Franje will use the local compost in its mushroom farm which will lead to a decrease in cost by around 60%. Franje is in serious negotiation with a company that provides high quality of fresh fruits and vegetables to luxurious restaurants and five-star hotels in the Kuwaiti market; also, many deals are in the process in the international market, but they are still in the early stages of discussion; the key markets are the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Franje wants to make a high-quality compost product to replace the existing import. The produce will primarily be sold at the local market and the Franje mushroom farm. Potential buyers and the Franje mushroom farm in Lebanon will switch all their compost purchases to locally grown compost.

By decreasing the cost of mushroom production, Franje will be able to compete in the international market

Compost is the basis for growth. A good quality compost is a guarantee for a good yield and good quality mushrooms. Composting relies on several factors, including the quality of raw materials, the recipe, homogeneity, logistics, the composting process, and hygiene. However, the owners want to

expand the business in size and scope, but they lack the necessary expertise, know-how, and technological skills to ensure a quality final compost product.

LED will cost share with Franje to hire a consultant to help the company to establish a compost farm and develop the best approaches to handle the different ingredients, locations, throughput, and applications for the composted product.

The consultant will assist with the engineering process including the layout of the construction and the selection of low-cost equipment, as well as set-up the composting process: material fermentation and compost treatment, the establishment of a quality control process, optimizing compost quality, hygiene check, spore measurement, and training and coaching the team.

Site Visit

Site visit or conference call with the client for this requirement is mandatory. If you submit a tender without having attended the site visit or making a conference call, your bid may be deemed non-compliant and will not be considered.

To arrange a visit or conference call, please coordinate with our business advisor for each client before the deadline. Depending on the situation, each client has the right to take conference calls instead of site visit.

Client	Business Advisor	Tel
Agriculture Trading Company SAL (dba Franje)	Nivine Chaaban	+961 70 516 132

Scope of Work:

Each consultant should submit a proposal that include a detailed SOW accompanied with price for each technical assistant.

N.B: Before awarding the contract for the winning vendor please be reminded that the SOW hence deliverables will be divided between LED and the client firm. The consultant will sign two separate contracts for the SOW:

1. A contract to be signed with LED that represents most of the technical assistance deliverables and;
2. A contract to be signed with the client firm to represent the deliverables for the client cost share part.

Section 4: Offer Cover Letter

The following cover letter must be placed on letterhead and completed/signed/stamped by a representative authorized to sign on behalf of the offeror:

To: LED Project
Fattal- Dolphin Building, 7th Floor
Daoud Ammoun Str., Horsh Tabet, Sin El Fil
Beirut, Lebanon

Reference: RFQ No. 253

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, hereby provide the attached offer to perform all work required to complete the activities and requirements as described in the above-referenced RFQ. Please find our offer attached.

We hereby acknowledge and agree to all terms, conditions, special provisions, and instructions included in the above-referenced RFQ. We further certify that the below-named firm—as well as the firm’s principal officers and all commodities and services offered in response to this RFQ—are eligible to participate in this procurement under the terms of this solicitation and under USAID regulations.

Furthermore, we hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief:

- We have no close, familial, or financial relationships with any Chemonics or LED project staff members;
- We have no close, familial, or financial relationships with any other offerors submitting proposals in response to the above-referenced RFQ; and
- The prices in our offer have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
- All information in our proposal and all supporting documentation is authentic and accurate.
- We understand and agree to Chemonics’ prohibitions against fraud, bribery, and kickbacks.

We hereby certify that the enclosed representations, certifications, and other statements are accurate, current, and complete.

Authorized Signature: _____

Name and Title of Signatory: _____

Date: _____

Company/Consultant Name: _____

Company/ Consultant Address: _____

Company/ Consultant Telephone and Website: _____

Company/ Consultant Registration or Taxpayer ID Number: _____

Company DUNS Number: _____

Does the company/ Consultant have an active bank account (Yes/No)? _____

Official name associated with bank account (for payment): _____