

Specific Procurement Notice
MCA-BENIN REGIONAL

Cotonou, Benin
19 April 2024

Re: PROCUREMENT AGENT SERVICES

Ref: BENR 24-4002

BACKGROUND

The United States of America, acting through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (“MCC”), and the Government of Benin (“Government”) signed a Millennium Challenge Compact (“Compact”) on December 14, 2022, through which MCC will provide funding not to exceed two hundred and two million U.S. Dollars (US \$202 million) to the Government for a program to advance economic growth and reduce poverty in Benin. The Government and MCC also signed a Grant and Implementation Agreement (“CDF Agreement”) to facilitate the development and implementation of the Compact, as amended on February 14, 2023. The Government has formed the Millennium Challenge Account-Benin Regional (“MCA-Benin Regional”), for the purpose of implementing the Compact. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Compact, related agreements, and the availability of funds, the Government intends to use a portion of the funds to finance professional procurement agent services from a legally constituted firm (“Procurement Agent”, “PA” or “Offeror”) to assist the Government with the implementation of the Compact program in a transparent and sound manner. The Procurement Agent will provide support (“Procurement Agent Services” or “Agency Services”) in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in an agreement (the “Procurement Agent Agreement”, “PA Agreement” or “PAA”), a form of which is attached to this Request for Offers (“RFO”) in Section VI.

In issuing this RFO, the Government is represented by MCA-Benin Regional, which is the accountable entity for implementing the Compact.

MCC is a U.S. government agency focused on assisting countries dedicated to good governance, economic freedom, and investments in people. The proposed Compact includes investment from MCC of approximately US \$202 million and a contribution of approximately \$204 million from the Government. The Procurement Agent will be required to manage the procurements financed by funding contributed by MCC and any cash portion of the Government’s contribution. For details, please refer to Annex II of the Compact (<https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/agreement-benin-concurrent-compact/>) and Annex III of the Program Implementation Agreement (“PIA”, available at

<https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/pia-benin-regional-transport/>) entered into between MCC and the Government.

THE COMPACT

The Compact consists of the following two (2) projects:

1. The Corridor Infrastructure Project (IC) which aims to reduce the costs of transport along the transport corridor from Cotonou, Benin, to Niamey, in Niger;
2. The Corridor Efficient Operation Project (ECO) which aims to reduce transportation costs, including vehicle operating costs, time-related costs, injuries and deaths as well as costs linked to low process reliability and market inefficiencies.

INVITATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

MCA-Benin Regional will require the Services of the Procurement Agent for a base period of six (6) months (“Base Period”) for Fees as defined in the Procurement Agent Agreement. Thereafter, MCA-Benin Regional will require five (5) 12-month option periods (“Option/s” or “Option Period/s”) for Agency Services and Fees as negotiated before each Option is exercised consistent with the terms in the PA Agreement. However, the final Option Period (Option Period 5) may be more than or less than 12 months and will include a 120-day period after the expiration of the Compact.

This Request for Offers, the RFO, follows the General Procurement Notice that appeared in dgMarket on 6th March 2024, UNDB Online on 7th March 2024 and the MCA-Benin Regional website on 6th March 2024.

MCA-Benin Regional now invites Offers from legally constituted firms and organizations to provide the Procurement Agent Services (“Offers”). More details on these Agency Services are provided in the Terms of Reference in Section V of this RFO.

This RFO is open to all eligible entities (“Offerors” or “Agents”) who wish to respond. Subject to restrictions noted in the RFO, Offerors may associate with other Offerors to enhance their capacity to successfully carry out the assignment.

Important notice: To avoid giving an insurmountable competitive advantage to Offerors that have provided or are currently providing Procurement Agent Services to an Accountable Entity funded by MCC, Offerors will not be evaluated and rated on the extent of their technical experience. An Offeror’s technical experience will be reviewed as a qualification requirement only. Any Offeror that is a party to an Accountable Entity Procurement Agent Agreement as of the issue date of this RFO will be deemed technically qualified without further review. An Offeror that is not

currently a party to an Accountable Entity Procurement Agent Agreement must provide evidence demonstrating that it meets or exceeds every mandatory qualification requirement as set out in this RFO. The qualification process will result in a yes or no determination. If the Offeror does not satisfy the qualification requirements, its Offer will be rejected without further review and evaluation. If the Offeror is determined qualified and eligible, its Offer will be evaluated according to criteria set out in this RFO at Section III.

An Offeror will be selected under the **Quality-Cost Based Selection (“QCBS”)** method, the evaluation procedure of which is described in Section III of the RFO in accordance with the “MCC Accountable Entity Procurement Policy and Guidelines” (“PPG”) provided on the MCC website (<https://www.mcc.gov/resources/doc/010124-ae-program-procurement-policy-guidelines/>). The selection process, as described, will include a review of past performance, reference checks, methodology for providing home office support and the qualifications of the proposed Procurement Agent Manager and Senior Procurement Specialists. The CVs of additional staff plus Forms TECH 8, 9 and 10 will be requested after the selection of the best qualified Offeror and will be subject to acceptance and approval by the Accountable Entity during negotiations. If negotiations fail for financial or technical reasons with this or any next ranked Offeror, the Accountable Entity reserves the right to invite the next ranked Offeror to negotiations or it can determine to cancel the procurement.

REQUEST FOR OFFERS: PARTS AND SECTIONS

The RFO includes the following Parts and Sections:

PART 1 –SELECTION PROCEDURES

Section I Instructions to Offerors (“ITO”)

This section provides information to help Offerors prepare their Offers; it also provides information on the submission, opening, and evaluation of Offers and on the award of the proposed Procurement Agent Agreement.

Section II Data Sheet (“DS”)

This section includes provisions that are specific to this procurement and that supplement Section I, Instructions to Offerors.

Section III Qualification Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

This section specifies the mandatory qualifications requirements of the Offeror and the criteria to be used to evaluate Technical Offers.

Section IV A Technical Offer Forms

This section provides the Technical Offer Forms that Offerors are to complete and submit as specified in this RFO.

Section IV B Financial Offer Forms

This section provides the Financial Offer Forms that the Offerors are to complete and submit with their Offers.

Section V Terms of Reference

This Section includes the detailed Terms of Reference that describe the nature, tasks, and duties of the Agency Services to be procured.

PART 2 – CONTRACT FORMS

Section VI Contract Agreement, Exhibits and Annexes

This section contains the draft form of the PA Agreement, including annexes, into which the Accountable Entity proposes to enter with the successful Offeror.

REQUEST RFO AND SUBMISSION OF OFFERS

Offerors interested in receiving the RFO and submitting an Offer should register using the following link: <https://ebmse.com/BENR-4002-PA-RFO>. Offerors should provide their correct email contact details. This will ensure that the Offerors receive updates regarding this RFO.

Please note that a Pre-Offer Conference will be held as described in the Data Sheet (“DS”), Section II of the RFO. Attendance at the Pre-Offer Conference is not mandatory but is strongly advised for all interested Offerors or their representatives.

Offers must be delivered electronically to the address and in the manner specified in the DS ITO 17, no later than **4:00 pm WAT (GMT+1) of 20 May 2024**. Late Offers will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Please note that only electronic Offers will be accepted.

Sincerely,

Afiss Bileoma

National Coordinator

MCA-Benin Regional