

Contract Title: Capacity Building Within Member States of the Caribbean Forum for ACP States (CARIFORUM) in the Areas of Competition, Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation for the Implementation of the EPA

Location: Caribbean region — Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

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Questions and Answers

Contract Notice

Question 1

With reference to selection criteria 2.1 "Professional capacity of candidate - Criteria for legal persons: has professional certification in this contract, such as Institutional Capacity Development and training in areas of Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation" we would like to know what type of "certification" is requested and what kind of evidence should be provided.

Answer

The candidate/applicant should provide a certificate attesting that it is in compliance with international quality assurance standards, in areas relevant to the contract, for example Consultancy Services in Institutional Capacity Development and training in areas such as Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation. The following standards are acceptable: International Certification Standards, ISO Standards, or other equivalent quality assurance standards.

Question 2(a)

2(a) Can U.S firm participate?

Answer:

Please refer to **item 11** of the of the Contract Notice which specifies that “ *Participation in tendering is open on equal terms to natural and legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of tenderers which are established in a Member State of the European Union, ACP States or in a country or territory authorised by the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement under which the contract is financed [see also **item 29** of the Contract Notice, which provides further information]. Participation is also open to international organizations*”.

Question 2(b)

2(b) Can a firm focus on a specific element of the contract i.e. Competition? (I believe we can support the Competition element).

Answer

Candidates must tender for the whole lot, as a package. Separation of the contract into specific components is not permitted.

Question 3

Page 3, Art. 21. SELECTION CRITERIA – point 2.1 Professional capacity of the candidate “has professional certification in this contract, such as Institutional Capacity Development and training in areas of Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation”.

Thus in my understanding the legal person have to provide the certificates of only the contracts/references (as per point 3 Technical capacity of candidate) related Institutional Capacity development and training in areas of Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation.

Answer

In relation to Section 21, point 2.1 of the Contract Notice, please see the response to Question 1 above, which outlines the relevant proof documents, certifying Professional Capacity. However, in relation to point 3.1 Technical Capacity, applicants are required to insert references of contracts on point 6(Experience) of the Application Form, which summarise the main projects related to this contract carried out over the past 3 years by the legal entity or entities making this application.