

Additional information about the Contract Notice

Contract title: Consultancy for Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation

Location - Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM): Antigua & Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago

1. Nature of contract

Global Price

2. Programme title

Support to CARIFORUM Member States in furthering the implementation of their Economic Partnership Agreement commitments and in meaningfully reaping the Benefits of Agreement – CRIS 2018/040 – 087 financed under the 11th European Development Fund.

3. Financing

Financing Agreement FED/2018/040 - 087

4. Legal basis, eligibility and rules of origin

The legal basis of this procedure is Annex IV to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000 as amended in Luxembourg on 25 June 2005 and in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010. Reference is made to Annex IV as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 20 June 2014.

Participation in tendering is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping – consortium – of candidates/tenderers) which are established in one of the Member States 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.

For UK candidates or tenderers: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement* on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union and to goods originating from an eligible country, as defined under Regulation (EU) No 236/2014** and Annex IV of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement***, are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in, and to goods originating in, the United Kingdom ****. Those persons and goods are therefore eligible under this call.

* Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

** Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action.

*** Annex IV to the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, as revised by Decision 1/2014 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers (OJ L196/40, 3.7.2014).

**** Including the Overseas Countries and Territories having special relations with the United Kingdom, as laid down in Part Four and Annex II of the TFEU.]

5. Candidature

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 4 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may participate or tender.

A consortium may be a permanent, legally established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific procurement procedure. All partners of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other partners) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation or tender of an ineligible natural or legal person will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.

6. Number of requests to participate or tenders

No more than one request to participate or tender can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or partner of a consortium submitting a request to participate or tender). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than one request to participate or tender, all requests to participate or tenders in which that person has participated will be excluded.

In case of lots, the candidates or tenderers may submit only one request to participate or tender per lot. Contracts will be awarded lot by lot and each lot will form a separate contract.

7. Grounds for exclusion

Candidates must submit a signed declaration, included in the request to participate form, to the effect that they are not in any of the situations listed in Section 2.6.10.1 of the **practical guide (PRAG)**. Where the candidate intends to rely on capacity providing entities or subcontractor(s), he/she must provide the same declaration signed by this/these entity(ies).

Candidates included in the lists of EU restrictive measures (see Section 2.4. of the PRAG) at the moment of the award decision cannot be awarded the contract.

8. Sub-contracting

Sub-contracting is allowed.

9. Number of candidates to be short-listed

On the basis of the request to participate received, between 4 and 8 candidates will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite the candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is more than the maximum allowed, the contracting authority will rank them using the re-examination criteria stated below.

10. Short-list alliances prohibited

Any tenders received from tenderers having a different composition than the ones mentioned in the short-listed request to participate forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure, unless prior approval from the contracting authority has been obtained – see practical guide 2.6.3.

Short-listed candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

11. Provisional date of invitation to tender

17th November 2022

12. Provisional commencement date of the contract

30st March 2023

13. Period of implementation of tasks

Thirty (30) months

14. Language of the procedure

All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.

15. Additional information

Financial data to be provided by the candidate in the request to participate form or in the tender submission form must be expressed in EUR. If applicable, where a candidate refers to amounts originally expressed in a different currency, the conversion to EUR shall be made in accordance with the InforEuro exchange rate of December which can be found at the following address: <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/graphs/inforeuro.html>.

SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

16. Selection criteria

Capacity-providing entities

An economic operator (i.e. candidate or tenderer) may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. If the economic operator relies on other entities, it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for the performance of the contract by producing a commitment by those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality as the economic operator relying on them and must comply with the selection criteria for which the economic operator relies on them. **Furthermore, the data for this third entity for the relevant selection criterion should be included in a separate document.** Proof of the capacity will also have to be provided when requested by the contracting authority.

With regard to technical and professional criteria, an economic operator may only rely on the capacities of other entities where the latter will perform the tasks for which these capacities are required.

With regard to economic and financial criteria, the entities upon whose capacity the economic operator relies, become jointly and severally liable for the performance of the contract.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of requests to participate submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole if not specified otherwise. The selection criteria will not be applied to natural persons and single-member companies when they are sub-contractors.

The candidate shall not use previous experience which caused breach of contract and termination by a contracting authority as a reference for selection criteria.

The selection criteria for each tenderer are as follows:

- 1) **Economic and financial capacity** (based on item 3 of the request to participate form). In case of candidate being a public body, equivalent information should be provided. The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years for which accounts have been closed.

Criteria for legal persons:

- the average annual turnover of the candidate or tenderer must exceed the annualised maximum budget of the contract i.e., the maximum budget stated in the contract notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year (minimum annual turnover requested may not exceed two times the estimated annual contract value, except in duly justified cases motivated in the tender dossier); and
- Current ratio (current assets/current liabilities) in the last year for which accounts have been closed must be at least 1. In case of a consortium this criterion must be fulfilled by each member.

Criteria for natural persons:

- the available financial resources of the candidate must exceed the annualised maximum budget of the contract i.e., the maximum budget stated in the procurement notice divided by the initial contract duration in years, where this exceeds 1 year; and
- the financial situation of the candidate should not be in deficit, taken into account debts, at the beginning and end of year.

- 2) **Professional capacity** (based on items 4 and 5 of the request to participate form for service contracts). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last three years preceding the submission deadline.

Criteria for legal persons:

- at least three (3) professional staff who currently work for the tenderer in fields related to this contract.

Criteria for natural persons:

- is currently working/has worked during the past three (3) years as a team leader with at least three (3) professional collaborators in fields related to this contract.

- 3) **Technical capacity** (based on items 5 and 6 of the request to participate form for service contracts). The reference period which will be taken into account will be the last five years from submission deadline.

Criteria applicable to both legal and natural persons:

3.1 The candidate has provided services under at least one (1) contract with a budget of at least 250,000 EUR in **Capacity Building in Competition, Public Procurement and Customs and Trade Facilitation**, which were implemented at any moment during the reference period: five (5) years.

3.2 Documentary evidence of the successful/partial completion of at least one (1) of the contracts referred to above.

This means that the contract the candidate refers to could have been started at any time during the indicated period but it does not necessarily have to be completed during that period, nor implemented during the entire period. Candidates are allowed to refer either to projects

completed within the reference period (although started earlier) or to projects not yet completed. Only the portion satisfactorily completed during the reference period will be taken into consideration. This portion will have to be supported by documentary evidence (statement or certificate from the entity which awarded the contract, proof of payment) also detailing its value. If a candidate has implemented the project in a consortium, the percentage that the candidate has successfully completed must be clear from the documentary evidence, together with a description of the nature of the services provided/supplies delivered if the selection criteria relating to the pertinence of the experience have been used.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the request to participate of these candidates must be re-examined in order to rank them and identify the 8 best requests to participate for the tender procedure. The only additional comparative criteria that which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination, in the order in which they appear below, are:

- the highest number of projects that meet criterion 3.1
- the highest cumulated value of the projects that meet criterion 3.1

17. Award criteria

Best price-quality ratio.

PARTICIPATION

18. Requests to participate format and details to be provided

Requests to participate must be submitted using the request to participate form, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The request to participate form is available from the following Internet address:

<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes>

The request to participate must be accompanied by a declaration on honour on exclusion and selection criteria using the template available from the following Internet address:

[https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA\(Ch.2\):General](https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/Annexes#Annexes-AnnexesA(Ch.2):General)

Any documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with a request to participate in addition to what has been requested will not be taken into consideration.

19. How requests to participate may be submitted

Requests to participate must be submitted in English exclusively to the contracting authority in a sealed envelope.

- Either by post or by courier service, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to:

**Mr. Chester James
Programme Manager, Procurement
CARICOM Secretariat
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
Guyana
Telephone: 592-222-0104**

OR hand delivered by the participant in person or by an agent directly to the premises of the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by this acknowledgement of receipt, to:

Mr. Chester James
Programme Manager, Procurement
CARICOM Secretariat
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
Guyana
Telephone: 592-222-0104
Opening: 8:30 am to 16:30 pm

The contract title and publication reference (see contract notice) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the request to participate and must always be mentioned in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority.

Requests to participate submitted by any other means will not be considered.

20. Deadline for submission of requests to participate

The candidate's attention is drawn to the fact that there are two different systems for sending Requests to participate: one is by post or private mail service, the other is by hand delivery.

In the first case, the request to participate must be sent before the date and time-limit for submission, as evidenced by the postmark or deposit slip¹, but in the second case it is the acknowledgment of receipt given at the time of the delivery of the request to participate that will serve as proof.

The deadline for submission of requests to participate can be found in the Contract Notice under IV.2.2.

Any request to participate sent to the contracting authority after this deadline will not be considered. The contracting authority may, for reasons of administrative efficiency, reject any request for participation submitted on time but received, for any reason beyond the contracting authority's control, after the effective date of approval of the short-list report, if accepting requests to participate that were submitted on time but arrived late would considerably delay the evaluation procedure or jeopardise decisions already taken and notified.

21. Clarifications on the contract notice

Any request for clarifications must be made in writing through the TED eTendering website accessible from the F&T portal². This concerns request for clarifications about the contract notice and also request for clarifications about the content of the document called "Additional information to the contract notice." Registration on TED eTendering is required to be able to create and submit a question. Clarifications can be requested by clicking "Create a question" in the Questions & Answers tab at the latest 21 days before the deadline for submission of requests to participate stated at section **IV.2.2) of the contract notice**.

Clarifications will be published on TED eTendering website at the latest 8 days before the deadline for the submission of requests to participate. The website will be updated regularly and it is the

¹ It is recommended to use registered mail in case the postmark would not be readable.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

candidates responsibility to check for updates and modifications during the submission period.

22. Outcome of the evaluation

By submitting a request to participate candidates accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means. Such notification shall be deemed to have been received on the date upon which the contracting authority sends it to the electronic address referred to in the request to participate form.

23. Alteration or withdrawal of requests to participate

Candidates may alter or withdraw their requests to participate by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of requests to participate. No requests to participate may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with precedent item. The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.