

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Statistics and Informatics Division
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS)
Development of the Bangladesh Poverty Database (BPD) project
E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Memo No: 52.031.011.013.00.092.2014 -1249

date: 04-05-2015

Subject: Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for selection of Consulting Firm (International) for Questionnaire Printing, Data capture and processing using the Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology (SF-1). [Second Round]

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) has received a credit (IDA Cr.5281BD) from the International Development Association (IDA) for "Development of the Bangladesh Poverty Database (BPD) Project" and intends to use part of the proceeds to appoint one (01) Consulting Firm (International) [the "Consultant"] for printing ICR-compliant questionnaires, training BBS staff in questionnaire administration and the use of ICR, OCR & OMR software, scanning the completed questionnaires and managing the data entry/editing process and preparation of clean data set with construction of a Relational Database Management System (RDMS).

The scope of work will comprise the following:

1. Adjusting the questionnaire provided by the BBS in order to optimize the performance of ICR technology while preserving its basic layout, as well as the form and sequencing of questions and answers.
2. Printing approximately 45 (forty five) million (both pages) questionnaires and forms (Legal Size) described in (1). The questionnaires shall contain a barcode (Random Unique Numbered) and shall be organized into spiral coil-bound booklets with cover sheet at both side.
3. Training
 - a) providing training to BBS officials (about 150 master trainers and others) on techniques of filling in the forms and other related instructions in handling the software and ICR technology to maximize the performance.
 - b) deliver software training to BBS officers & others as required. The training shall include questionnaire fill-up, scanning, data editing, and data processing, preparation of clean dataset, and export data and construction of database.
 - c) provide intensive technical training to develop template, manage, operate and testing various questionnaire.
4. Scanning approximately 40 (forty) million filled questionnaires (both pages) at the rate of at least four hundred thousand questionnaires per day using BBS scanning devices & any number of additional scanner with scanning devices as required along with cutting machines have to be provided by the firm in BBS premises.
5. Processing the scanned questionnaire/forms using Intelligent Character Recognition Technology with the combination of ICR, OCR & OMR softwares.
6. Manual editing of the dataset with the ICR technology process, including:
 - a) manual correction of erroneously-recognized characters
 - b) computer-aided translation of English names and words into Bangla script and verification against Bengali hand written letters and words for data processing.
 - c) apply validation rules to the form fields, as defined by the BBS
 - d) verifying the defined entries using the National ID database through API
7. Delivering the final dataset in the form of a Relational Database and image files containing the original scanned forms.
8. Ensure that Intelligent Character Recognition software as mentioned in SI.5 is licensed to cover scanning, data capture, data processing and editing unlimited number of questionnaire, using at least two hundred workstations/users. The license of software will be in the name of BBS and its validity will be for minimum 5 years.
9. Installation, Testing, Commissioning of software in the hardware and network of BBS at its premises.
10. Provide all types of technical support at no additional cost for the duration of licensing period.

11. The Project Director, Development of the Bangladesh Poverty Database Project (BPD), now invites eligible Consultants (International) having previous experience in similar types of assignment to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Consultants (Firms) should provide Expression of Interest (EOI) with pertinent information in demonstrating that they have relevant qualifications and experience for the assignment. The EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria to prepare a short list:

- (i) Experience in conducting similar assignment;
- (ii) Availability of key professional staff;
- (iii) Years of experience in relevant field;
- (iv) Managerial strength;
- (v) Turnover of the Firm for the last 05(five) years;
- (vi) List of offices, equipment, logistic support, etc.
- (vii) ISO or equivalent quality certification;
- (viii) Other relevant information (Trade license, VAT/IT certificate, company registration, etc.)

Special attentions of interested consultants are drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guide lines: Selection and Employment of consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA credits and Grants, by World Bank Borrowers, (January-2011) which sets forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

12. Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their capability to carry out the assignment. The association may be either in the form of Joint Venture or sub-consultancy (documentary evidence must be submitted). In case of a joint venture all members of such association should have real and well defined inputs to the assignment and it is preferable to limit the total number of firms/institutes in the association to a maximum of three. Consultants will be selected in accordance with Quality- and- Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procedures set out in the Guidelines for selection and employment of consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA credits and grants by World Bank Borrowers (Jan 2011 edition). Only short listed Consultants (Firms) will be issued Request for Proposal (RFP).

13. Firms that have already expressed interest-during the first round REOI do not need to re-submit the EOI.

14. All EOIs (one original and four copies) must be submitted in a sealed envelope. Consultants shall submit their EOIs by 3.00 P.M on 14-05-2015 in sealed Envelope clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) for selection of Consulting Firm (International) for Questionnaire Printing, Data capture and processing using the Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) technology (SF-1) under BPD Project." to the undersigned by hand/courier service /guaranteed express service through the post office. No EOI will be received through e-mail. Any EOI received after the dead line will not be accepted. Any attempts to unduly persuade the procuring entity by any applicant will be ground for disqualification. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. The EOI notice will also be available in the websites: www.sid.gov.bd, www.bbs.gov.bd, www.cptu.gov.bd as well as in UN Development Business (<https://www.devbusiness.com>)


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