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| **No.** | **Questions** | **Answer** |
| 1 | The instructions indicate several countries that are under sanctions and which cannot participate in the tender either as a participant or as a partner of the participant.  Question: Does this ban also apply to the use of Equipment manufactured in these countries in the project (in particular to panels and inverters from China)? | Yes, this ban also applies to the use of Equipment manufactured in these countries in the project.  In accordance with Clause 3. SOURCE, ORIGIN AND NATIONALITY RESTRICTIONS of the bid, the USAID authorized geographic codes 937 and 110 are applicable.  There’s also a list of Prohibited sources, as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which include countries such as Russian Federation, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, Belarus, Burma, Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Somalia, South Sudan, Nicaragua, People’s Republic of China, and Hong Kong. |
| 2 | The instructions in the section “Pamirenergy’s contribution to this project” indicate that Pamirenergy performs all construction work both on the site and on the building, installation work on power equipment and 10 kV cables, grounding and lightning protection, lighting and video surveillance, internal logistics and customs costs, transportation costs from the customs terminal to the site and loading and unloading operations.  Question: Does this mean that the Tenderer should not consider these volumes when preparing a proposal? | These works will be executed with Pamir Energy resources, BUT the equipment and materials are to be provided or paid by the bidder.  For certain materials like panel structure foundation slabs and inverter and switchgear building, which Pamir Energy can source locally, is suggested that Bidder agrees with Pamir Energy on the most cost-effective approach. |
| 3 | The technical specification indicates the implementation of the system design.  Question: does this mean that it is necessary to carry out design with a state examination, or to carry out design without conducting a state examination, and should I include the cost of design in my price offer? | The design required is “Approved for Construction” in EPC terms, which means unrelated with State Examination but detailed enough for contractors by physically perform ALL civil and installation works (inclusive of electrical). |
| 4 | 1. In the terms of reference of the tender, in the section Equipment and services provided by the Contractor, some equipment and services that, according to our calculations, are necessary for the implementation of the project are not indicated.  Question: will the project include the supply, installation and commissioning of a UPS with a capacity that would meet the needs of the station in emergency mode or will it not be included in the project?  Question: the minimum technical requirements do not include EMS with software, will this be included in the specifications or should its cost be included in the cost of the inverter? | 1. Bidder is to further clarify the question and the application of the UPS.  When grid-forming capable inverters are powered on the DC side they usually can power auxiliary loads like communications and motorized switchgears when properly configured.  Regarding EMS, bidder is to clarify the application and functionalities of that EMS. In any case the eventual EMS should be an independent cost item. |
| 2. Regarding the question No. 4, we would like to note that if the new Solar Power Plant operates in the network independently from the existing solar power plants (i.e. it will not be connected to the existing solar power plants either via low current or low voltage), the network of the Solar Power Plant’s own requirements will need to have a guaranteed power supply independent of the energy storage system intended for supplying energy to the network. That’s because during emergency or repair works, the solar power plants’ own networks, from which the control, protection, video surveillance, fire system and lighting circuits are powered, will be de-energized (cut off the power). According to the requirements of Rules for electrical installations, these networks must be powered from an independent source, either from batteries that are intended only to power the network for its own needs, or from a UPS. When the solar power plant operates together, these circuits can be powered from the UPS of the existing solar power plant, which has a power reserve.  As for EMS, this is a control cabinet for station management, which also houses SCADA; it is designated differently in various projects.  Since the technical specifications describe that the Contractor must supply an inverter with support for the EIC 61850 protocol for possible integration with the existing SCADA from NR, therefore the solar power plant must have a Control Cabinet (EMS) with SCADA. | 2. Bidder to note the plant is intended to operate independently from the existing plants. Bidder to note that auxiliary systems for a plant this size only include eventual night lighting, which in case of being offered, should be motion activated coupled with integrated motion activated cameras, and individually self-powered, and stand-by communications, which normally are also self-powered through internal batteries. Inverters and LV switchgear do not require fire protection systems.  Inverters must have 61850 communication protocol integration within themselves, not through external recoding interfaces, together with internal direct webserver integration. Transcoders and external communication gateways are fault points which greatly reduce the system integrity. Bidder can seek further information about the leading European or US manufacturers and their latest utility-scale string inverter integration, software architecture, and remote management approach.  Nevertheless, the above notes are indicative only; bidder is free to propose whatever items he understands as mandatory for his proposed equipment and architecture to ensure it meets the operational requirements defined in the tender documents, provided these are clearly listed, described and independently costed, as requested in the tender documents. |
| 5 | Does the Customer consider placing the designed SES on the territory of the existing SES 600 kW +1200 kW/h, since the territory of the existing SES-600 kW +1200 kW/h allows the placement of panels up to 300 kW. | The plant will be on a new site, adjacent to the existing ones.  Sites are located at:  Latitude: 38.177754° (Decimal degrees)  Longitude: 74.022951° (Decimal degrees)  Or in UTM: |
| 6 | The operating mode of the designed solar power plant is clear from the technical specifications that it will operate on a network and the software (SCADA) is designed to ensure protection and automation of the system of this solar power plant. Question: is this software (SCADA) intended only for monitoring the designed SPP or will it also control existing SPPs 600kW+1200kW/h and 200kW? | Integration of existing plants into any scada that may be proposed is not envisioned in this procurement. |
| 7 | Are Chinese components accepted to be used in the bid? | Not acceptable.  In accordance with Clause 3. SOURCE, ORIGIN AND NATIONALITY RESTRICTIONS of the bid, the USAID authorized geographic codes 937 and 110 are applicable.  There’s also a list of Prohibited sources, as outlined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which include countries such as Russian Federation, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Balkans, Belarus, Burma, Yemen, Syria, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Somalia, South Sudan, Nicaragua, People’s Republic of China, and Hong Kong. |
| 8 | As per Attachment A of the RFQ, under “**Scope of Works to be executed by Pamir Energy, Once this project is awarded,**” there are items that overlap with the scope of the bidder, including, but not limited to pulling of LV and HV cables, installation of lightning and grounding systems, and HV interconnection.  Kindly specify the exact scope that will be provided by Pamir Energy regarding system installation to avoid any duplication in pricing. | Please note that “cable pulling” means physical installation, while the cable has to be provided by the bidder.  Cable terminations will be supplied by bidder, but physically installed by Pamir Energy.  In general, except otherwise clearly mentioned, bidder will supply the materials and Pamir Energy will execute the physical installation. As mentioned in answer to question 2, bidder may agree with Pamir Energy on the local sourcing. |
| 9 | Kindly clarify the qualifications of the installation team that will be provided by Pamir Energy. | Experienced electrical engineers and officials, together with experienced operators on civil works. |
| 10 | As per the RFQ, the inverter is required to have grid-forming or black start capabilities; however, this does not apply to on-grid inverters. Kindly clarify. | We suggest bidder to check his references; many utility scale string inverters have grid forming capabilities, either through direct override of anti-islanding protection and/or extension of the parameters of grid support functions, like transient event ride through values.1 |
| 11 | Kindly confirm that the mounting structure material can be fully aluminium of grade 6005T5+316L (posts, beams, and rails). | Yes, confirmed. |
| 12 | Kindly confirm that the HDG structure is required to have a galvanization of 90 microns. | Yes, confirmed. |
| 13 | Kindly clarify if Pamir Energy will fully handle the customs, duties, clearance, and in-land transportation of materials to the site. | Yes, confirmed. |
| 14 | Kindly recommend a specific port to be used for CIF shipping. | A delivery point: an administrative Center of Murgab district, urban-type settlement Murgab, VMKB, Tajikistan. |
| 15 | It is mentioned in the RFQ that the fence is already installed on the site. Kindly provide us with the land dimensions to confirm the PV layout for both options. | The fence will be installed by Pamir Energy once the final layout has been provided by the awardee. There are no land limitations. |
| 16 | Kindly specify the connection point on the single-line diagram. | The PoC will be at the existing connection point in the existing solar plants. The CCP pole will be on South border of the South plant. Please see site details in coordinates shown in answer to question 5. |
| 17 | If China-made equipment is already available in Cooperating countries or countries authorized by Geographic Code 937 and 110, do source, nationality and origin restrictions still apply?  And, does the source, nationality and origin restriction apply if such equipment was not produced specifically for the project acquiring the equipment? | PCA authorized geographic codes are 937 and 110.  These geographic codes generally refer to the procurement rules that apply to the United States, the recipient country (s), and developing countries (excluding advanced developing countries and prohibited sources like China).   * Source refers to the country from which a commodity is shipped to the cooperating/recipient country. * Origin refers to the country where a commodity is mined, grown, or produced. * Nationality refers to the country where the supplying vendor/entity is legally registered.   Yes, the source, nationality and origin restrictions still apply. Even if China-made equipment is available in Cooperating countries or countries authorized by Geographic Code 937, the origin of the equipment remains China. According to USAID procurement regulations, the origin of the goods is crucial. If the origin is a prohibited source (such as China), then the equipment cannot be used in USAID-funded projects, regardless of its current location or availability in a cooperating or authorized country.  Yes, the source, nationality and origin restriction applies regardless of whether the equipment was produced specifically for the project. The determining factor is the origin of the equipment. If the equipment originates from China, it does not comply with the restrictions set by USAID under Geographic Code 937 and 110, even if it was not produced specifically for the project and is already available in an authorized country (cooperating country or country authorized by either geographic code).  In summary, the source, nationality and origin restrictions apply to China-made equipment even if it is available in cooperating or authorized countries under Geographic Code 937 and 110, and these restrictions are not negated by the fact that the equipment was not produced specifically for the project. The origin of the equipment being China is the critical factor that determines its eligibility. |