

Section2. Instructions to Consultants

- Definitions
- a) "Client" means the procuring entity with which the selected Consultant signs the Contract for the Services.
 - b) "Consultant" means any organization that may provide or provides the Services to the Client under the Contract.
 - c) "Contract" means the contract signed by the Parties and all the attached documents listed in Clause 1 of, that is the General Conditions (GC), the Special C the form of agreement.
 - d) "Data Sheet" means such part of the Instructions to Consultants used to reflect specific assignment conditions.
 - e) "Day" means calendar day .
 - f) "Foreign Personnel" means such professionals and support staff who at the time of being so provided had their domicile outside Sri Lanka;
 - g) "Instructions to Consultants" (Section 2 of the RFP) means the document which provides shortlisted Consultants with all information needed to prepare their Proposals.
 - h) "Local Personnel" means such professionals and support staff who at the time of being so provided had their domicile within Sri Lanka.
 - i) "LOI" (Section 1 of the RFP) means the Letter of Invitation being sent by the Client to the shortlisted Consultants.
 - j) "Party" means either or both the Client or the Consultant, as the context requires.
 - k) "Personnel" means professionals and support staff provided by the Consultant or by any Sub-Consultant and assigned to perform the Services or any part thereof;
 - l) "Proposal" means the Technical Proposal and the Financial Proposal.
 - m) "RFP" means the Request for Proposal prepared by the Client for the selection of Consultants.
 - n) "Services" means the work to be performed by the Consultant pursuant to the Contract.
 - o) "Sub-Consultant" means any person or entity with whom the Consultant subcontracts any part of the Services.
 - p) "Terms of Reference" (TOR) means the document included in the RFP as Section 5 which explains the objectives, scope of work, activities, tasks to

be performed, respective responsibilities of the Client and the Consultant, and expected results and deliverables of the assignment.

1.
Introduction

- 1.1 The Client named in the Data Sheet will select a consulting firm/organization (the Consultant) from those listed in the Letter of Invitation, in accordance with the method of selection specified in the Data Sheet.
- 1.2 The shortlisted Consultants are invited to submit a Technical Proposal and a Financial Proposal, for consulting services required for the assignment named in the Data Sheet. The Proposal will be the basis for contract negotiations and ultimately for a signed Contract with the selected Consultant.
- 1.3 Consultants should familiarize themselves with local conditions of the location where the assignment has to be carried out and take them into account in preparing their Proposals. To obtain first-hand information on the assignment and local conditions, Consultants are encouraged to visit the Client before submitting a proposal and to attend a pre-proposal conference if one is specified in the Data Sheet. Attending the pre-proposal conference is optional. Consultants should contact the Client's representative named in the Data Sheet to arrange for their visit or to obtain additional information on the pre-proposal conference. Consultants should ensure that these officials are advised of the visit in adequate time to allow them to make appropriate arrangements.
- 1.4 The Client will timely provide at no cost to the Consultants the inputs and facilities specified in the Data Sheet, assist the firm in obtaining licenses and permits needed to carry out the services, and make available relevant project data and reports.
- 1.5 Consultants shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their proposals and contract negotiation. The Client is not bound to accept any proposal, and reserves the right to annul the selection process at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the Consultants.

Conflict of
Interest

- 1.6 The Client requires that Consultants provide professional, objective, and impartial advice and at all times hold the Client's interests paramount, strictly avoid conflicts with other assignments or their own corporate interests and act without any consideration for future work.
 - 1.6.1 Without limitation on the generality of the foregoing, Consultants, and any of their affiliates, shall be considered to have a conflict of interest and shall not be recruited, under any of the circumstances set forth below:

- Conflicting Activities (i) A firm that has been engaged by the Client to provide goods, works or services other than consulting services, and any of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from providing consulting services related to those goods, works or services. Conversely, a firm hired to provide consulting services, and any of its affiliates, shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods or works or services other than consulting services resulting from or directly related to the firm's consulting services.
- Conflicting assignments (ii) A Consultant (including its Personnel and Sub-Consultants) or any of its affiliates shall not be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, may be in conflict with another assignment of the Consultant to be executed for the same or for another Client. For example, a Consultant hired to prepare engineering design for an infrastructure project shall not be engaged to prepare an independent environmental assessment for the same project. Similarly, a Consultant hired to prepare Terms of Reference for an assignment should not be hired for the assignment in question.
- Conflicting relationships (iii) A Consultant (including its Personnel and Sub-Consultants) that has a business or family relationship with a member of the Client's staff who is directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the Terms of Reference of the assignment, (ii) the selection process for such assignment, or (iii) supervision of the Contract, may not be awarded a Contract.
- 1.6.2 Consultants have an obligation to disclose any situation of actual or potential conflict that impacts their capacity to serve the best interest of their Client, or that may reasonably be perceived as having this effect. Failure to disclose said situations may lead to the disqualification of the Consultant or the termination of its Contract.
- 1.6.3 No agency or current employees of the Client shall work as Consultants Personnel under their own ministries, departments or agencies. Recruiting former government employees of the Client to work for their former ministries, departments or agencies is acceptable provided no conflict of interest exists. When the Consultant nominates any government employee as Personnel in their technical proposal, such Personnel must have written certification from their government or employer confirming that they are allowed to work full-time outside of their previous official position. Such certification shall be provided to the Client by the Consultant as part of his technical proposal.
- Unfair Advantage 1.6.4 If a shortlisted Consultant could derive a competitive advantage from having provided consulting services related to the assignment in question, the Client shall make available to all shortlisted Consultants

together with this RFP all information that would in that respect give such Consultant any competitive advantage over competing Consultants.

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| Only one Proposal | 1.7 | Shortlisted Consultants may only submit one proposal. If a Consultant submits or participates in more than one proposal, such proposals shall be disqualified. However, this does not limit the participation of the same Sub-Consultant, including individual experts, to more than one proposal. |
| Proposal Validity | 1.8 | The Data Sheet indicates how long Consultants' Proposals must remain valid after the submission date. During this period, Consultants shall maintain the availability of professional staff nominated in the Proposal. The Client will make its best effort to complete negotiations within this period. Should the need arise, however, the Client may request Consultants to extend the validity period of their proposals. Consultants who agree to such extension shall confirm that they maintain the availability of the professional staff nominated in the Proposal, or in their confirmation of extension of validity of the Proposal, Consultants could submit new staff in replacement, which would be considered in the final evaluation for contract award. Consultants who do not agree have the right to refuse to extend the validity of their Proposals. |
| Eligibility of Sub-Consultants | 1.9 | In case a shortlisted Consultant intends to associate with Consultants who have not been shortlisted and/or individual expert(s), such other Consultants and/or individual expert(s) shall be subject to the requirements set forth in this RFP. |
| Fraud and Corruption | 1.10 | <p>The officials of the procuring entity, as well as Consultants participating in this consultant selection process should adhere to the highest ethical standards, both during the selection process and throughout the execution of a contract. In pursuance of this policy, the following definitions are given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) "corrupt practice" means offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of any thing of value to influence the action of a public official in the selection process or in contract execution;(ii) "fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation or omission of facts in order to influence a selection process or the execution of a contract;(iii) "collusive practices" means a scheme or arrangement between two or more consultants with or without the knowledge of the PE, designed to establish prices at artificial, non competitive levels;(iv) "coercive practices" means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons or their property to influence their participation in a procurement process, or affect the execution of a contract. |

2. Clarification and Amendment of RFP Documents
- 2.1 Consultants may request a clarification of any of the RFP documents up to the number of days indicated in the Data Sheet before the proposal submission date. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing, to the Client's address indicated in the Data Sheet. The Client will respond in writing, and will send written copies of the response (including an explanation of the query but without identifying the source of inquiry) to all Consultants, who have been invited to submit a proposal. Should the Client deem it necessary to amend the RFP as a result of a clarification, it shall do so following the procedure under para. 2.2.
- 2.2 At any time before the submission of Proposals, the Client may amend the RFP by issuing an addendum in writing. The addendum shall be sent to all Consultants and will be binding on them. Consultants shall acknowledge receipt of all amendments. To give Consultants reasonable time in which to take an amendment into account in their Proposals the Client may, if the amendment is substantial, extend the deadline for the submission of Proposals.
3. Preparation of Proposals
- 3.1 The Proposal (see para. 1.2), as well as all related correspondence exchanged by the Consultants and the Client, shall be written in English Language.
- 3.2 In preparing their Proposal, Consultants are expected to examine in detail the documents comprising the RFP. Material deficiencies in providing the information requested may result in rejection of a Proposal.
- 3.3 While preparing the Technical Proposal, Consultants must give particular attention to the following:
- (a) If a shortlisted Consultant considers that it may enhance its expertise for the assignment by associating with other Consultants in a joint venture or sub-consultancy, it may associate with either (a) non-shortlisted Consultant(s), or (b) shortlisted Consultants if so indicated in the Data Sheet. A shortlisted Consultant must first obtain the approval of the Client if it wishes to enter into a joint venture with non-shortlisted or shortlisted Consultant(s). In case of association with non-shortlisted Consultant(s), the shortlisted Consultant shall act as association leader. In case of a joint venture, all partners shall be jointly and severally liable and shall indicate who will act as the leader of the joint venture.
- (b) The estimated number of Professional staff-months or the budget for executing the assignment shall be shown in the Data Sheet, but not both. However, the Proposal shall be based on the number of Professional staff-months or budget estimated by the Consultants.
- For fixed-budget-based assignments, the available budget is given in

the Data Sheet, and the Financial Proposal shall not exceed this budget, while the estimated number of Professional staff-months shall not be disclosed.

(c) Alternative professional staff shall not be proposed, and only one curriculum vitae (CV) may be submitted for each position.

Language

(d) Documents to be issued by the Consultants as part of this assignment must be in English language.

Technical Proposal Format and Content

3.4 The Technical Proposal shall provide the information indicated in the following paras from (a) to (g) using the attached Standard Forms (Section 3).

(a) a brief description of the Consultants' organization and an outline of recent experience of the Consultants and, in the case of joint venture, for each partner, on assignments of a similar nature is required in Form TECH-2 of Section 3. For each assignment, the outline should indicate the names of Sub-Consultants/ professional staff who participated, duration of the assignment, contract amount, and Consultant's involvement. Information should be provided only for those assignments for which the Consultant was legally contracted by the client as a corporation or as one of the major firms within a joint venture. Assignments completed by individual professional staff working privately or through other consulting firms cannot be claimed as the experience of the Consultant, or that of the Consultant's associates, but can be claimed by the professional staff themselves in their CVs. Consultants should be prepared to substantiate the claimed experience if so requested by the Client.

(b) Comments and suggestions on the Terms of Reference including workable suggestions that could improve the quality / effectiveness of the assignment; and on requirements for counterpart staff and facilities including: administrative support, office space, local transportation, equipment, data, etc. to be provided by the Client (Form TECH-3 of Section 3).

(c) a description of the approach, methodology and work plan for performing the assignment covering the following subjects: technical approach and methodology, work plan, and organization and staffing schedule. Guidance on the content of this section of the Technical Proposals is provided under Form TECH-4 of Section 3. The work plan should be consistent with the Work Schedule (Form TECH-8 of Section 3) which will show in the form of a bar chart the timing

proposed for each activity .

(d) The list of the proposed professional staff team by area of expertise, the position that would be assigned to each staff team member, and their tasks (Form TECH-5 of Section 3).

(e) Estimates of the staff input (staff-months of foreign and local professionals) needed to carry out the assignment (Form TECH-7 of Section 3). The staff-months input should be indicated separately for foreign (if required) and local professional staff.

(f) CVs of the professional staff signed by the staff themselves or by the authorized representative of the professional staff (Form TECH-6 of Section 3).

(g) a detailed description of the proposed methodology and staffing for training, if the Data Sheet specifies training as a specific component of the assignment.

3.5 The Technical Proposal shall not include any financial information. A Technical Proposal containing financial information may be declared non responsive.

Financial Proposals

3.6 The Financial Proposal shall be prepared using the attached Standard Forms (Section 4). It shall list all costs associated with the assignment, including (a) remuneration for staff (local and foreign (if required) ; and (b) other expenses indicated in the Data Sheet. If stated in the Data Sheet, these costs should be broken down by activity using FORM FIN – 5 and, if appropriate, into foreign and local expenditures. All activities and items described in the Technical Proposal must be priced separately ; activities and items described in the Technical Proposal but not priced, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items.

Taxes

3.7 A foreign Consultant may be subject to local taxes on amounts payable by the Client under the Contract. Any such amounts shall not be included in the Financial Proposal as they will not be evaluated, but they will be discussed at contract negotiations, and applicable amounts will be included in the Contract. The tax liability of a local Consultant shall be borne by the Consultant.

3.8 The Consultants must price the local cost in Sri Lanka Rupees only . However, the expenditure involves in foreign currency such as foreign consultant's fees and air ticket may be price in foreign currency .

4. Submission, Receipt, and Opening of

4.1 The original Proposal (Technical Proposal and, Financial Proposal) shall contain no interlineations or overwriting, except as necessary to correct errors made by the Consultants themselves. The person who signed the Proposal must initial such corrections. Submission letters for both

- Proposals
- Technical and Financial Proposals should respectively be in the format of TECH-1 of Section 3, and FIN-1 of Section 4.
- 4.2 An authorized representative of the Consultants shall initial all pages of the original Technical and Financial Proposals. The authorization shall be in the form of a written power of attorney accompanying the Proposal or in any other form demonstrating that the representative has been duly authorized to sign. The signed Technical and Financial Proposals shall be marked "ORIGINAL".
- 4.3 The Technical Proposal shall be marked "ORIGINAL" or "COPY" as appropriate. The Technical Proposals shall be sent to the addresses referred to in paragraph 4.5 and in the number of copies indicated in the Data Sheet. All required copies of the Technical Proposal are to be made from the original. If there are discrepancies between the original and the copies of the Technical Proposal, the original governs.
- 4.4 The original and all copies of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL". Similarly, the original Financial Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope clearly marked "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" followed by the name of the assignment, and with a warning "DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL." The envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into an outer envelope and sealed. This outer envelope shall bear the submission address, reference number and title, and be clearly marked "DO NOT OPEN, EXCEPT IN PRESENCE OF THE OFFICIAL APPOINTED, BEFORE [insert the time and date of the submission deadline indicated in the Data Sheet]". The Client shall not be responsible for misplacement, loss or premature opening if the outer envelope is not sealed and/or marked as stipulated. This circumstance may be cause for Proposal rejection. If the Financial Proposal is not submitted in a separate sealed envelope duly marked as indicated above, this will constitute grounds for declaring the Proposal non-responsive.
- 4.5 The Proposals must be sent to the address indicated in the Data Sheet and received by the Client no later than the time and the date indicated in the Data Sheet, or any extension to this date in accordance with paragraph 2.2. Any proposal received by the Client after the deadline for submission shall be returned unopened.
- 4.6 The Client shall open the Technical Proposal immediately after the deadline for their submission. The envelopes with the Financial Proposal shall remain sealed and securely stored.
5. Proposal Evaluation
- 5.1 From the time the Proposals are opened to the time the Contract is awarded, the Consultants should not contact the Client on any matter related to its Technical and/or Financial Proposal. Any effort by

Consultants to influence the Client in the examination, evaluation, ranking of Proposals, and recommendation for award of Contract may result in the rejection of the Consultants' Proposal.

Evaluators of Technical Proposals shall have no access to the Financial Proposals until the technical evaluation is concluded.

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| Evaluation of Technical Proposals | 5.2 The Client shall evaluate the Technical Proposals on the basis of their responsiveness to the Terms of Reference, applying the evaluation criteria, subcriteria, and point system specified in the Data Sheet. Each responsive Proposal will be given a technical score (St). A Proposal shall be rejected at this stage if it does not respond to important aspects of the RFP, and particularly the Terms of Reference or if it fails to achieve the minimum technical score indicated in the Data Sheet. |
| Public Opening of Financial Proposals (only for QCBS, FBS and LCS) | 5.3 After the technical evaluation is completed in accordance with paragraph 5.2 above, the Client shall notify those Consultants whose Proposals did not meet the minimum qualifying mark or were considered non responsive to the RFP and TOR, that their Financial Proposals will be returned unopened after completing the selection process. The Client shall simultaneously notify in writing Consultants that have secured the minimum qualifying mark, the date, time and location for opening the Financial Proposals. The opening date should allow Consultants sufficient time to make arrangements for attending the opening. Consultants' attendance at the opening of Financial Proposals is optional.

5.4 Financial Proposals shall be opened publicly in the presence of the Consultants' representatives who choose to attend. The name of the Consultants and the technical scores obtained by each qualified Consultant shall be read aloud. The Financial Proposal of the Consultants who met the minimum qualifying mark will then be inspected to confirm that they have remained sealed and unopened. These Financial Proposals shall be then opened, and the total prices read aloud and recorded. |
| Evaluation of Financial Proposals for QBS | 5.5 Following the ranking of technical Proposals as described under 5.2 above, The Client will examine the Financial Proposal of the first ranked Consultant. First, the Client will examine whether Financial Proposal is complete. Then the Proposal is checked for arithmetical errors. The reasonability of the following in comparison with the supporting documents submitted by the Consultant is examined:

a) The remuneration rates, social costs, overheads, profits; and

b) Other costs such as out of pocket expenses, cost of surveys, equipment, office rent, supplies, travel, transport, computer rental, mobilization, and printing. |

Following the ranking of technical Proposals, when selection is based on quality only (QBS), the first ranked Consultant is invited to negotiate its proposal and the Contract in accordance with the instructions given under para. 6 of these Instructions.

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| <p>Evaluation of Financial Proposals (only for QCBS , FBS , and LCS)</p> | <p>5.6 The Evaluation Committee will correct any computational errors. When correcting computational errors, in case of discrepancy between a partial amount and the total amount, or between words and figures the former will prevail. In addition to the above corrections, as indicated under para. 3.6, activities and items described in the Technical Proposal but not priced, shall be assumed to be included in the prices of other activities or items. In case an activity or line item is quantified in the Financial Proposal differently from the Technical Proposal, (i) if Option B is applicable under Clause 6 of GC, the Evaluation Committee shall correct the quantification indicated in the Financial Proposal so as to make it consistent with that indicated in the Technical Proposal, apply the relevant unit price included in the Financial Proposal to the corrected quantity and correct the total Proposal cost, (ii) if Option A is applicable under Clause 6 of GC, no corrections are applied to the Financial Proposal in this respect. Prices shall be converted to Sri Lankan Rupees, if the consultants were allowed to indicate certain expenditure of the Financial Proposal in foreign currency , using the selling rates of exchange, source and date indicated in the Data Sheet.</p> |
| <p>Combined Evaluation Technical and Financial Proposals (only for QCBS)</p> | <p>5.7 In case of QCBS, the lowest evaluated Financial Proposal (Fm) will be given the maximum financial score (Sf) of 100 points. The financial scores (Sf) of the other Financial Proposals will be computed as indicated in the Data Sheet. Proposals will be ranked according to their combined technical (St) and financial (Sf) scores using the weights (T = the weight given to the Technical Proposal; P = the weight given to the Financial Proposal; T + P = 1) indicated in the Data Sheet: $S = St \times T\% + Sf \times P\%$. The firm achieving the highest combined technical and financial score will be invited for negotiations.</p> |
| <p>Evaluation of Financial Proposals (only for FBS)</p> | <p>5.8 In the case of Fixed-Budget Selection, the Client will select the firm that submitted the highest ranked Technical Proposal within the budget. Proposals that exceed the indicated budget will be rejected. The evaluated proposal price according to para. 5.6 shall be considered, and the selected firm is invited for negotiations</p> |
| <p>Evaluation of Financial Proposals (only for LCS)</p> | <p>5.9 In the case of the Least-Cost Selection, the Client will select the lowest Proposal among those that passed the minimum technical score. The evaluated proposal price according to para. 5.6 shall be considered, and the selected firm is invited for negotiations</p> |

6. Negotiations
- 6.1 Negotiations will be held at the date and address indicated in the Data Sheet. The invited Consultant will, as a pre-requisite for attendance at the negotiations, confirm availability of all professional staff. Failure in satisfying such requirements may result in the Client proceeding to negotiate with the next-ranked Consultant. Representatives conducting negotiations on behalf of the Consultant must have written authority to negotiate and conclude a Contract.
- Technical negotiations
- 6.2 Negotiations will include a discussion of the Technical Proposal, the proposed technical approach and methodology, work plan, and organization and staffing, and any suggestions made by the Consultant to improve the Terms of Reference. The Client and the Consultants will finalize the Terms of Reference, staffing schedule, work schedule, logistics, and reporting. These documents will then be incorporated in the Contract as "Description of Services". Special attention will be paid to clearly defining the inputs and facilities required from the Client to ensure satisfactory implementation of the assignment. The Client shall prepare minutes of negotiations which will be signed by the Client and the Consultant.
- Availability of Professional staff/experts
- 6.3 Having selected the Consultant on the basis of, among other things, an evaluation of proposed Professional staff, the Client expects to negotiate a Contract on the basis of the professional staff named in the Proposal. Before contract negotiations, the Client will require assurances that the professional staff will be actually available. The Client will not consider substitutions during contract negotiations unless both parties agree that undue delay in the selection process makes such substitution unavoidable or for reasons such as death or medical incapacity. If this is not the case and if it is established that professional staff were offered in the proposal without confirming their availability, the Consultant may be disqualified. Any proposed substitute shall have equivalent or better qualifications and experience than the original candidate and be submitted by the Consultant within the period of time specified in the letter of invitation to negotiate.
- Financial negotiations (only for QCBS, FBS and LCS)
- 6.4 In the cases of QCBS, FBS, and the LCS methods, unless there are exceptional reasons, the remuneration rates for staff and other proposed unit rates of the financial negotiations shall not be negotiated.
- Financial negotiations (only for QBS,)
- 6.5 For QBS method, if requested by the Client, the Consultants shall provide the information on remuneration rates described in the Appendix attached to Section 4 - Financial Proposal - Standard Forms of this RFP

- Conclusion of the negotiations
- 6.6 Negotiations will conclude with a review of the draft Contract. To complete negotiations the Client and the Consultant will initial the agreed Contract. If negotiations fail, the Client will invite the Consultant whose Proposal received the second highest score to negotiate a Contract.
7. Award of Contract
- 7.1 After completing negotiations the Client shall award the Contract to the selected Consultant, and promptly notify all Consultants who have submitted proposals. After Contract signature, the Client shall return the unopened Financial Proposals to the unsuccessful Consultants.
- 7.2 The Client will notify the selected Consultant the date, time and venue for the signing of the agreement following the template given in Section 6. The option selected for the method of payment, under GC Clause 6 is stated in the Data Sheet.
- 7.3 The Consultant is expected to commence the assignment on the date and at the location specified in the Data Sheet.
8. Confidentiality
- 8.1 Information relating to evaluation of Proposals and recommendations concerning awards shall not be disclosed to the Consultants who submitted the Proposals or to other persons not officially concerned with the process, until the publication of the award of Contract. The undue use by any Consultant of confidential information related to the process may result in the rejection of its Proposal and may be subject to the provisions of the Bank's antifraud and corruption policy .