

Section II. Instructions to Bidders

Notes on the Instructions to Bidders

This Section on the Instruction to Bidders (ITB) provides the information necessary for bidders to prepare responsive bids, in accordance with the requirements of the Procuring Entity. It also provides information on bid submission, eligibility check, opening and evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and on the award of contract.

1. Scope of Bid

The Procuring Entity, *USTP* wishes to receive Bids for the *Proposed Procurement of the Supply and Delivery of Next Generation Firewall License for USTP-CDO Campus CY 2024* with identification number (*Contract No. USTP-GSPB-04-2024-37-4791*).

The Procurement Project (referred to herein as “Project”) is composed of the *Supply and Delivery of Next Generation Firewall License for USTP-CDO Campus CY 2024*, the details of which are described in Section VII (Technical specifications).

2. Funding Information

2.1. The GOP through the source of funding as indicated below for *IGI CY 2024* in the amount of ***FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 (P4,800,000.00) ONLY***.

2.2. The source of funding is:

a. *Internally Generated Income for CY 2024.*

3. Bidding Requirements

The Bidding for the Project shall be governed by all the provisions of RA No. 9184 and its 2016 revised IRR, including its Generic Procurement Manuals and associated policies, rules and regulations as the primary source thereof, while the herein clauses shall serve as the secondary source thereof.

Any amendments made to the IRR and other GPPB issuances shall be applicable only to the ongoing posting, advertisement, or **IB** by the BAC through the issuance of a supplemental or bid bulletin.

The Bidder, by the act of submitting its Bid, shall be deemed to have verified and accepted the general requirements of this Project, including other factors that may affect the cost, duration and execution or implementation of the contract, project, or work and examine all instructions, forms, terms, and project requirements in the Bidding Documents.

4. Corrupt, Fraudulent, Collusive, and Coercive Practices

The Procuring Entity, as well as the Bidders and Suppliers, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract. They or through an agent shall not engage in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, coercive, and obstructive practices defined under Annex “I” of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184 or other integrity violations in competing for the Project.

5. Eligible Bidders

5.1. Only Bids of Bidders found to be legally, technically, and financially capable will be evaluated.

5.2. *Not Applicable.*

5.3. Pursuant to Section 23.4.1.3 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No.9184, the Bidder shall have an SLCC that is at least one (1) contract similar to the Project the value of which, adjusted to current prices using the PSA's CPI, must be at least equivalent to:

a. *The Bidder must have completed a single contract that is similar to this Project, equivalent to at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the ABC.*

5.4. The Bidders shall comply with the eligibility criteria under Section 23.4.1 of the 2016 IRR of RA No. 9184.

6. **Origin of Goods**

There is no restriction on the origin of goods other than those prohibited by a decision of the UN Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN, subject to Domestic Preference requirements under **ITB** Clause 18.

7. **Subcontracts**

7.1. The Bidder may subcontract portions of the Project to the extent allowed by the Procuring Entity as stated herein, but in no case more than twenty percent (20%) of the Project.

The Procuring Entity has prescribed that:

a. *Subcontracting is not allowed.*

7.2. *Not Applicable.*

7.3. *Not Applicable.*

7.4. *Not Applicable.*

8. **Pre-Bid Conference**

The Procuring Entity will hold a pre-bid conference for this Project on the specified date and time and either at its physical address Procurement Services, 2/F Gym Lobby, USTP CDO, C.M. Recto Avenue, Cagayan de Oro City and/or through via Cisco Webex as indicated in paragraph 6 of the **IB**.

9. **Clarification and Amendment of Bidding Documents**

Prospective bidders may request for clarification on and/or interpretation of any part of the Bidding Documents. Such requests must be in writing and received by the Procuring Entity, either at its given address or through electronic mail indicated in the **IB**, at least ten (10) calendar days before the deadline set for the submission and receipt of Bids.

10. Documents comprising the Bid: Eligibility and Technical Components

- 10.1. The first envelope shall contain the eligibility and technical documents of the Bid as specified in **Section VIII (Checklist of Technical and Financial Documents)**.
- 10.2. The Bidder's SLCC as indicated in **ITB Clause 5.3** should have been completed within *three (3) years* prior to the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.
- 10.3. If the eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents for submission to the BAC are in foreign language other than English, it must be accompanied by a translation in English, which shall be authenticated by the appropriate Philippine foreign service establishment, post, or the equivalent office having jurisdiction over the foreign bidder's affairs in the Philippines. Similar to the required authentication above, for Contracting Parties to the Apostille Convention, only the translated documents shall be authenticated through an apostille pursuant to GPPB Resolution No. 13-2019 dated 23 May 2019. The English translation shall govern, for purposes of interpretation of the bid.

11. Documents comprising the Bid: Financial Component

- 11.1. The second bid envelope shall contain the financial documents for the Bid as specified in **Section VIII (Checklist of Technical and Financial Documents)**.
- 11.2. If the Bidder claims preference as a Domestic Bidder or Domestic Entity, a certification issued by DTI shall be provided by the Bidder in accordance with Section 43.1.3 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.
- 11.3. Any bid exceeding the ABC indicated in paragraph 1 of the **IB** shall not be accepted.
- 11.4. For Foreign-funded Procurement, a ceiling may be applied to bid prices provided the conditions are met under Section 31.2 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.
- 11.5. *Not Applicable.*

12. Bid Prices

- 12.1. Prices indicated on the Price Schedule shall be entered separately in the following manner:
 - a. For Goods offered from within the Procuring Entity's country:
 - i. The price of the Goods quoted EXW (ex-works, ex-factory, ex-warehouse, ex-showroom, or off-the-shelf, as applicable);

- ii. The cost of all customs duties and sales and other taxes already paid or payable;
 - iii. The cost of transportation, insurance, and other costs incidental to delivery of the Goods to their final destination; and
 - iv. The price of other (incidental) services, if any, listed in e.
- b. For Goods offered from abroad:
- i. Unless otherwise stated in the **BDS**, the price of the Goods shall be quoted delivered duty paid (DDP) with the place of destination in the Philippines as specified in the **BDS**. In quoting the price, the Bidder shall be free to use transportation through carriers registered in any eligible country. Similarly, the Bidder may obtain insurance services from any eligible source country.
 - ii. The price of other (incidental) services, if any, as listed in **Section VII (Technical Specifications)**.

12.2. *Not Applicable.*

13. Bid and Payment Currencies

13.1. For Goods that the Bidder will supply from outside the Philippines, the bid prices may be quoted in the local currency or tradeable currency accepted by the BSP at the discretion of the Bidder. However, for purposes of bid evaluation, Bids denominated in foreign currencies, shall be converted to Philippine currency based on the exchange rate as published in the BSP reference rate bulletin on the day of the bid opening.

13.2. Payment of the contract price shall be made in:

- a. *Philippine Peso.*

14. Bid Security

14.1. The Bidder shall submit a Bid Securing Declaration¹ or any form of Bid Security in the amount indicated in the **BDS**, which shall be not less than the percentage of the ABC in accordance with the schedule in the **BDS**.

14.2. The Bid and bid security shall be valid until September 12, 2024. Any Bid not accompanied by an acceptable bid security shall be rejected by the Procuring Entity as non-responsive.

14.3. *Not Applicable.*

¹ In the case of Framework Agreement, the undertaking shall refer to entering into contract with the Procuring Entity and furnishing of the performance security or the performance securing declaration within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of Notice to Execute Framework Agreement.

15. Sealing and Marking of Bids

Each Bidder shall submit one copy of the first and second components of its Bid.

The Procuring Entity may request additional hard copies and/or electronic copies of the Bid. However, failure of the Bidders to comply with the said request shall not be a ground for disqualification.

If the Procuring Entity allows the submission of bids through online submission or any other electronic means, the Bidder shall submit an electronic copy of its Bid, which must be digitally signed. An electronic copy that cannot be opened or is corrupted shall be considered non-responsive and, thus, automatically disqualified.

16. Deadline for Submission of Bids

16.1. The Bidders shall submit on the specified date and time and either at its physical address or through online submission as indicated in paragraph 7 of the **IB**.

16.2. *Not Applicable.*

17. Opening and Preliminary Examination of Bids

17.1. The BAC shall open the Bids in public at the time, on the date, and at the place specified in paragraph 9 of the **IB**. The Bidders' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance. In case videoconferencing, webcasting or other similar technologies will be used, attendance of participants shall likewise be recorded by the BAC Secretariat.

In case the Bids cannot be opened as scheduled due to justifiable reasons, the rescheduling requirements under Section 29 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184 shall prevail.

17.2. The preliminary examination of bids shall be governed by Section 30 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.

18. Domestic Preference

18.1. The Procuring Entity will grant a margin of preference for the purpose of comparison of Bids in accordance with Section 43.1.2 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.

18.2. *Not Applicable.*

19. Detailed Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

19.1. The Procuring BAC shall immediately conduct a detailed evaluation of all Bids rated "*passed*," using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. The BAC shall consider the conditions in the evaluation of Bids under Section 32.2 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184.

- 19.2. If the Project allows partial bids, bidders may submit a proposal on any of the lots or items, and evaluation will be undertaken on a per lot or item basis, as the case maybe. In this case, the Bid Security as required by **ITB** Clause 15 shall be submitted for each lot or item separately.
- 19.3. The descriptions of the lots or items shall be indicated in **Section VII (Technical Specifications)**, although the ABCs of these lots or items are indicated in the **BDS** for purposes of the NFCC computation pursuant to Section 23.4.2.6 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184. The NFCC must be sufficient for the total of the ABCs for all the lots or items participated in by the prospective Bidder.
- 19.4. The Project shall be awarded as follows:

One Project which shall be awarded as one contract.
- 19.5. Except for bidders submitting a committed Line of Credit from a Universal or Commercial Bank in lieu of its NFCC computation, all Bids must include the NFCC computation pursuant to Section 23.4.1.4 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184, which must be sufficient for the total of the ABCs for all the lots or items participated in by the prospective Bidder. For bidders submitting the committed Line of Credit, it must be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the ABCs for all the lots or items participated in by the prospective Bidder.

20. Post-Qualification

- 20.1. *Not Applicable.*
- 20.2. Within a non-extendible period of five (5) calendar days from receipt by the Bidder of the notice from the BAC that it submitted the Lowest Calculated Bid, the Bidder shall submit its latest income and business tax returns filed and paid through the BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) and other appropriate licenses and permits required by law and stated in the **BDS**.

21. Signing of the Contract

- 21.1. The documents required in Section 37.2 of the 2016 revised IRR of RA No. 9184 shall form part of the Contract. Additional Contract documents are indicated in the **BDS**.
- 21.2. *Not Applicable.*
- 21.3. *Not Applicable.*
- 21.4. *Not Applicable.*
- 21.5. *Not Applicable.*