

Please find below our comments on the SOA-QPS Contract:

(a) Categorisation of Services and Suppliers

Feedback

a-i) Suggest to increase the contract ceiling for Service Category 3, Minor Group from HK\$1.3 to HK\$3M and for Major Group from HK\$10M to HK\$12M.

(b) Participation by Suppliers

Feedback

b-i) The Government should maintain the current status quo otherwise it will not be worthwhile for Contractors to participate in the SOA-QPS Contract.

(c) Length of Contracts

Feedback

c-i) The current duration of the Contract is acceptable.

(d) Selection of Contractors and Quality Considerations

Feedback

d-i) There should be more transparency on the quality scores of contractors within the same service category group (i.e. Let contractors know the quality scores of the other contractors so that they can strive to improve or maintain their ranking).

d-ii) More consideration should be given to quality, therefore, we propose that the Standard Marking Scheme be based upon a weighting of 40% in quality assessment and 60% in price assessment instead of the current 30% - 70% weighting.

(e) Categorisation of Human Resources

Feedback

No Comment

(f) Sub-contracting

Feedback

f-i) Allow principal contractors to submit proposals containing sub-contractors who are under approval by SOA-QPS Administration. The reason is that most Assignment Briefs provide a proposal preparation time of 10 working days and it typically takes 10 working days for the Government to approve a new sub-contractor, therefore, they may not be approved in time to meet the proposal submission date.

f-ii) As the services under Service Category 3 are rather broad it is not always possible to provide resources with the required skillset specified in an Assignment Brief, therefore, we would like the Government to consider not restricting the Principal Contractors to only providing resources from their list of nominated Sub-Contractors for work assignments.

(g) Contractor's Liability

Feedback

No Feedback

(h) Timing for Proposal Submission

Feedback

h-i) The current timing of 2 weeks for the preparation of Proposals is adequate, but the Government needs to provide more accurate forecasting of Assignment Briefs. On average there are 2-3 proposal submissions per month, but in Dec 2007 there were 9 proposal submissions, which is more than 3 times the average. Hence we would like a more accurate and realistic forecast of the Assignment Briefs so that we can arrange for appropriate resources to handle any surges in volume.

(i) Payment for Services

Feedback

No Feedback

(j) Others

Feedback

j-i) Allow for electronic submission of proposals (using digital certificates) because the current process is very wasteful on resources (i.e. 3 x envelopes for Price, Technical and complete submission, hardcopies of Price and Technical proposals submitted to the Government and for record purposes, 2 x CDs for Price and Technical proposals).

j-ii) Provide a standard CV Template to be used for all proposals. At the moment each Government Dept can specify their own CV Template, therefore, we have to reformat our CVs for each Work Assignment Proposal.

j-iii) Not have to submit a proposal for every Work Assignment, instead maintain a submission rate of say 90 to 95% of all Work Assignments. The reason is that we may not have resources to satisfy the requirements for each brief, therefore, if it is mandatory to submit a proposal then we can only provide an incomplete proposal.

j-iv) To allow Contractors to make better use of its resources we would suggest that all the proposal prices for a Work Assignment be announced the day after closing of the tender. Contractors who are not within the first 3 know that there is little chance of their proposal being successful, therefore, they can reallocate the resources to other projects. This is common practice in Singapore Government tenders, and should be considered by the HKSAR Government.

j-vi) The Government should consider providing expected Assignment Award Dates so that Contractors know when they can expect the announcement of awards. Currently, some Government Departments already do this, but this is the exception rather than the norm.