



Response to the Consultation on the Future Arrangement of the Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services in the HKSAR Government

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We, Media Explorer Limited (ME), are serving as one of the Category 3 Minor Group sub-contractor for the current SOA-QPS.

In response to your invitation to the review of the "Consultation of the Future Arrangement of the Standing Offer Agreement for the Quality Professional Services in the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, ME is pleased to provide comments for the Office's consideration in the SOA-QPS Review.

(a) Number of Contractors for Each Category/Group

ME agrees to remove the limit for each category/group of SOA-QPS4 (i.e. Category 1, Category 2 Minor, Category 2 Major, Category 3 Minor, Category 3 Major, Category 4), are awarded in other categories/groups in SOA-QPS5.

It would encourage and increase the number of qualified companies to be on the supplier list and participate in Government procurement. It would benefit HKSAR to get more options by increasing number of qualified service providers and solutions.

We also suggest that price will not be the judge criteria in the first stage for selecting contractors, as pricing factors would be reflected more accurately in the submit proposals for individual IT work assignments of open tendering in the second stage.

(b) Service Categorisation

ME agrees to combine the category/group (Category 1, Category 2 Category 3) in SOA-QPS5, as some of the IT work assignments are fallen into Category 1, 2 and 3. It may not fair to those contractors under either one or two categories. More qualified contractors could bid for the work assignments when the category 1, 2 and 3 are combined into a group. It would be more flexible for Government BD to issue the IT work assignments and reduce the cost of procurement if the work assignments are not required to separate into different tenders.

Beside, ME also agrees that the service of Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be grouped into Category 4 currently grouped under Category 1, which it requires speciality knowledge and experience similar as Information Security and Independent Testing Services in Category 4.

(c) Demarcation Limit and Group

ME agrees to uplift the demarcation limit of Minor Group to enlarge the range of the project cost, hence SMEs can participate in Government projects from lower value to higher value.

ME suggests that the ceiling of project amount could be set for different IT work assignments of open tendering. Contractors of Minor Group (from IT start-up to Small and Medium Enterprises) can easily identify and select the suitable work assignment to bid. Both contractors and Government could be benefit, both can have more options of pitching opportunities and contractors respectively.

The above summarized our comments on the current operation of SOA-QPS. We are pleased to have further discussion on any issues/aspects of the current and future SOA-QPS arrangements.