

Clarifications - RFP for Construction Supervision of New Demerara River Bridge

No.	Page Reference	Clarification Requests	Responses
1		Can a Guyanese consulting engineering firm be a member of multiple teams submitting proposals, as a sub consultant?	Yes
2	-	Request for 3 weeks Extension	Request approved; new deadline March 22
3	-	Cars for supervision team: are cars & fuel for supervision team already provided by the Works Contractor? Or are they to be included in the Consultant's Financial Proposal ?	Vehicle for supervision team, fuel and maintenance will be provided under the works contract
4	-	House for supervision team (International Experts): are accommodations for international experts already provided by the Works Contractor? Or are they to be included in the Consultant's	Housing is to be included in the supervision financial proposal
5	-	Working days per week. What are the working days of a standard week for the supervision period ? five (from Monday to Friday) or six (from Monday to Saturday) ?	Standard work week for this project would be Monday to Saturday
6	-	Office for Consultant's Staff in Guyana. We understand that consultant's office is in charge of the Consultant. Is it required that such Office be located at the Construction site or is it accepted that	Consultant office will be located on site
7	-	Office at Construction site. Is there an office facility for the Supervision Team at the construction site, provided by the Works Contractor, fully equipped and serviced ?	Office at Construction Site will be provided under the works contract
8	34	Appendix 2. Supplementary Information for Consultants. FORM TECH-2B. Page 34. 1.List only previous similar assignments successfully completed in the last [insert number] years. Please specify the number of years referred to "in the last..."	10 years

9	46-47	Appendix 2. Supplementary Information for Consultants. Evaluation of proposals. Page 46 – 47. Page 46 ... Only then will the financial proposals be opened, and only those of the consultants whose technical proposals attained a score of at least [70] points in the technical evaluation... Page 47 indicates “The minimum technical points (Pt) required to pass is: 75 points.” Please indicate the minimum number of points required for the Technical Proposal (70 or 75?)	The minimum technical points required for financial evaluation is 75 points.
10	47	Appendix 2. Supplementary Information for Consultants. Evaluation of proposals. Page 47. (iv) Participation of Guyanese nationals among proposed Key Experts. 10 points We would be grateful if you could indicate how the 10 points would be allocated. We understand that with one professional we would get 10 points.	Your understanding is correct; firms will be awarded 10 points for the inclusion of at least one Guyanese national among the proposed Key Experts.
11	27	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference. (c) Key Expert No. 3: Geotechnical Engineer. Page 27 (ii) ...The candidate should have experience in similar geographic areas... We would be grateful if you could clarify this. We understand that experience in South America, the Caribbean and Central America would be adequate.	Your understanding is correct.
12	26-27	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference. (c) Key Expert No.1 Resident Engineer, Key Expert No 2: Structural/ Bridge Engineer and Key Expert No. 3: Geotechnical Engineer. Page 26-27 (ii) Experience...The candidate must have been a registered professional engineer for a minimum of 10 and 6 years and be a corporate/ chartered member of an international civil engineering body. We would be grateful if you could eliminate the requisite stating that the candidate should be a corporate/chartered member of and international civil engineering body. This is not common in South and Central America. We request that the requisite be changed to “the candidate should be a registered professional engineer”. We would also like to know if you require this professional to be on site during the complete supervision period.	Registration is not necessary; Graduation and/or diplomas certificates should be provided. It is expected that the Resident Engineer would be on site during the complete supervision period. For the remaining key experts, firms are expected to be guided by their experience to determine how many on-site man hours are required.

13	26	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference. (c) Key Expert No.1 Resident Engineer, etc. Page 26 (ii) Experience ... on a project of this size and complexity... Please clarify what specifically is meant by size and complexity. Length of Bridge, number of lanes, typology, span length, etc.?	This refers to similar projects in terms of cost (US\$200M+), duration, staffing requirements and related parameters.
14	27	Appendix 1: Terms of Reference. (c) Key Expert No.4 Quality Assurance – Quality Control / Materials Engineer Page 27 (ii) Experience ... on projects of a comparable nature.... Please clarify what specifically is meant by comparable nature. Bridge projects, road projects, port projects, etc.?	
15	-	Please clarify the scope of the QA/QC supervision responsibilities. Specifically, the following should be made very clear because it will materially affect the budget.: a) Will the Contractor be responsible for ALL QA/QC tests? b) Will the Supervising Consultant be responsible for verification of the Contractor's test results?	a) The Contractor will be responsible for the execution of QA/QC tests b) The Supervising Consultant will be responsible for overseeing the QA/QC tests and verifying the Contractor's results.
16	-	It would be useful to know the schedule of work from the Contractor in terms of how many work fronts will they employ, how many shifts per day, etc. because this will have a material impact on the supervision budget	This information is not yet available.
17	-	Does the Client expect the Supervision team to install and operate a Laboratory on site, or is the supervision team only required to verify a sample of the results of the quality control tests executed by the Contractor?	The supervision team is only required to verify the results of the quality control tests executed by the Contractor.
18	-	Please provide the scope of the Geotechnical work that was performed to facilitate the bidding on the Design Build contract.	It will be the responsibility of the Contractor to perform Geotechnical tests to inform their design.
19	-	Please provide the international structural and other standards to which the bridge will be designed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification SI Units Third Edition • AASHTO LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications

20	-	The QA/QC plan of the selected contractor must be provided to bidders	This information is not yet available.
21	-	The Contractor's Health and Safety plan for the project must be provided to bidders because it will have an impact on supervising consultant bid price.	This information is not yet available.
22	70	Sub-Clause 42.3 of "Section II: General Conditions of Contract" provides that "Unless the SCC provides for the price adjustment of the remuneration rates, said remuneration shall be fixed for the duration of the Contract." The SCC has no provision in this regard. The Consultant understands that in the event of any extension of time beyond the scheduled completion period is granted to the Contractor resulting into extension of the duration of consultancy services as well, price adjustment shall become applicable during extended period for the Consultant as well. Please Confirm.	If the Contract is extended, it is still in effect; as such the remuneration rate remains fixed.
23	13	The employer is requested to make provision of Quantity Surveyor/ Measurement Engineer for entire duration of the Project to carry out the activity of measurement and computation of quantities of approved and accepted works.	As stated on page 28 of the RFP, non-key experts such as Surveyors are to be included in the Consultant's team.
24	25-28	One requirement of several key experts under the ToR is a master's degree in the respective fields of study or equivalent. Kindly indicate what is deemed "equivalent" qualification for the Resident Engineer, Structural/Bridge Engineer, Geotechnical Engineer, and the Materials Engineer? Further, the requirement of Post-graduation qualification for construction projects is quite uncommon and graduation qualification is widely accepted. MoPW may reconsider this aspect.	Broad interpretation is allowed as long as the degree substantially covers or overlaps with the listed qualification. Post-graduate qualifications are required for the key-experts.
25	27-28	Kindly indicate what is considered by the client as projects of similar nature and complexity?	This refers to similar projects in terms of cost (US\$200M+), duration, staffing requirements and related parameters.

26	25-28	There are no inspectors of works or technician support under the ToR, and whilst we do recognize that the ToR states that the team will also consist of non-key experts at the discretion of the consultant, the lack of specific details leaves the composition of the team subjective to prospective bidders, which can have significant implication on the financial bid. For example, inspectors of works appear to be a basic requirement for the supervision but the number of inspectors and duration for their use under the project can have a significant cost implication. Considering the nature of the project, we kindly ask that the client re-look at the list of experts, to reduce the room for subjectivity and allow for a more competitive bidding.	It is expected that a Consultancy Firm with prior experience in projects of similar size and complexity would have a good appreciation for the team composition required to successfully execute the project. Consequently, such decisions are left to the discretion of the bidder.
27	-	Can experts / key personnel be featured on more than one proposal?	Yes
28	-	Please clarify the details of the Bid Security Declaration requirement	The Bid Securing Declaration form has been uploaded to the Ministry's website alongside the RFP.
29	5	Paragraph no. 13 (b) of Letter inviting Proposals mentions that "Foreign consultants who are not resident in Guyana: Please note that the remuneration received from this contract will not be subject to normal tax liability in Guyana, but payments made to those consultants may be subject to a withholding tax. Kindly contact the relevant tax authorities for further information in this regard, if required." Please provide the rate of Withholding Tax applicable on Foreign Consultants who are not resident in Guyana.	10%
30	73	On page 73, it provides that the Consultant is registered in an "Eligible Country", but we cannot find anywhere in the request a definition of Eligible Country. Please provide a list of the "Eligible Countries".	Clause 50. Eligibility will be deleted.
31		We understand a Feasibility Study was completed in 2017. Can we get a copy of the Feasibility Study along with any appendices?	This document will be provided to the awarded bidder.

32		The November 17, 2020, workshop to determine the desirable delivery method generated questions and answers and informed the bidding decision. Please provide a copy of the questions and answers generated during the workshop along with the outcome of the workshop.	This information cannot be disseminated at this time.
33		We acknowledge that the Contractor will be responsible for the execution of QA/QC tests, and the Consultant will be responsible for overseeing the QA/QC tests and verifying the Contractor's results. To this end, should our response and price include a QA testing services allowance to perform independent AASHTO/CMEC/USACE certified tests?	No.
34	4	Article 4 of the RFP (page 4) reports that a “Bid Securing Declaration” is applicable but there are not further instructions/forms in the RFP. Can you please clarify what the bidder has to provide on this matter ?	Refer to the response for question 28.
35		Is the Bid Securing Declaration a Bid Bond to be issued by a Bank? This information is important as the Bank procedures may be lengthy.	No.
36		Please provide guidance on whether a boat will be provided for in the works contract to assist with the supervision activities.	A boat will be provided to assist with the supervision activities.
37		Will the works contractor provide a fully functional laboratory facility to undertake the necessary tests required for this project.	Yes.
38		Can a foreign firm be a prime contractor in one proposal and a sub-contractor in another?	No.
39	27-28	We humbly request that the client consider Social Development / Sociologist and Environmental Specialists who were involved with projects that were in excess of US\$100M instead.	With specific reference to Key Expert No. 5: Social Developmental Specialist/Sociologist and Key Expert No.6 Environmental Specialist the client will consider the size and complexity of projects within the range of (20-50 Million) United States Dollars.

40	23-24	We kindly request that the section of item ii “and secure all requisite clearances, legal opinions, and agreements as well as compensation to APs prior to commencement of the civil works”, be removed from the scope of services, as this role is beyond the typical scope of a Construction Supervision mandate. While we would be able to assist in the LAR process, we cannot assume responsibility for these items as this should remain with the Design-Builder	With reference to the TOR, Section 3, subsection 'e' Social Development Supervision item "ii" is amended to read Facilitate needed survey, consultations, and preparation of LARP (as a supplementary document) necessary for the Client to secure all requisite clearances legal opinions and agreements as well compensation to APs prior commencement of civil works.
41		We request that the Client, define the number of work fronts and the number of shifts per day, so that all bidders can compete under the same conditions. Alternatively, in the scenario where the client is unable to provide this, we propose that Bidders should assume six (6) work fronts [4 structural & 2 roadworks] on one (1) shift per day.	Initially, all bidders should assume six (6) workfronts [4 structural & 2 roadworks] on one (1) shift per day. However as the project advances and as the need arises the number of work fronts and shift per day may change.
42		Regarding the Bid Documents OR Terms of Reference issued to the Pre-qualified contractors, would a copy of this be available for review?	A compendium of documents relevant to the assignment will be shared with the successful Consultant upon award of consulting services contract.
43		We noted an RFP was done for an Environmental Assessment to be done for the proposed Bridge, please confirm if this was commissioned and if so can a copy of this be provided?	The EPA has since determined that an EIA would not be required for the bridge. Instead, an ESMP is required and this will be prepared by the Contractor and reviewed by the Consultant and the Client.
44		We understand that there are active negotiations now with the second bidder, can you advise on a projected award/start date?	The outcome of the negotiations will be made public in due course and details provided upon award of consulting services.

45	28	<p>The RFP speaks for the project duration of 24 calendar months, however it is understood the consultant would be required additionally for the twelve (12) month defects liability period. We would thus like to confirm the proposal caters for the 24 months for the Project Execution stage and the additional cost for the 12 months defects liability period and the consultant engagement would thus be a total of 36 months. Please Confirm.</p>	<p>It is envisaged that the Consultant will be retained for a period of at least 36 months but the level of engagement will be reduced during the defects liability stage. Please refer to page 22 of the RFP document for a brief scope of services required during the Defects Liability Period.</p>
46	5	<p>Regarding Tax liability for foreign consultants, we note the wording “may be subject to withholding tax”. At present the stipulated withholding tax varies from 20-10 % based on location of non-resident as well as if they are part of the treaty, and, you would appreciate including this will affect the financial proposals. Please confirm if there will be some flexibility on this or should we cater for the withholding tax for all non-resident consultants. Also, kindly advise the conditions where no Withholding Tax would arise.</p>	<p>Consultants to make provision to pay all local taxes unless otherwise negotiated with the successful consulting firm. For further guidance on withholding tax for non-resident consultants please refer to the Corporation Tax Act, Chapter 81:03, Chapter 10B.</p>
47		<p>Regarding Foreign Consultants who would need to be present in Guyana for extended periods for this project, would there be any special support for the granting of work permits.</p>	<p>Yes. The Executing Agency will facilitate the issuance of Work Permits for approved Key Staff</p>
48		<p>Please confirm if the period for review of the designs are also included in the 24 months duration for the construction phase.</p>	<p>Yes, the design review is included in the 24 months</p>
49	11	<p>Item (a) Design Review page 11 This section initially indicates that the consultant is not obliged to preview or check calculations, however, the subsequent sections speak in detail Structural Review Report. We wish to confirm this is required as part of the consultant scope.</p>	<p>Preparation of a Structural Review is part of the scope of the Consultant as laid out in pages 11 and 12 of RFP Document.</p>

50		<p>While you have made it clear that the Responsibility for the structural design is held by the contractors Structural Engineer of Record, we would like to clarify if you require Professional Indemnity insurance from any of the key experts/consultants and, if so, to what value.</p>	<p>The Minimum amount of Professional Liability insurance coverage is US \$500,000 as stated in section III Specific Conditions of Contract contained in the Draft Contract (Appendix 3), page 77 of the RFP Document.</p>
51		<p>Item (B) Construction supervision page 13 This item stated the requirement for topographic controls and work area limits for Quarries and Haul roads. Can this be expanded more as the consultants would be not aware of the extent of the works as well the scope of initial surveys done by the contractor? Would the consultant be required to provide a full topographic survey of the “on land” boundaries of the site? Can the extent of boundaries of the project be shared to help cost this appropriately?</p>	<p>With reference to Contract Supervision item (v) is amended to read Furnishing for the use of the Contractor, all necessary ground and topographic controls for the establishment of alignments and grades ect. No. the consultant would not be required to provide a full topographic survey of the on land boundaries of the site.</p>

52		In the bid document to the contractor, was there any special requests for local content, nominated Guyana firms or labour requirements?	Yes there are a menu of local content requirements for the Contractor
53	15	Item (b) Construction Supervision (xxviii) – page 15 - This item speaks broadly of items not covered under the contract; can you extrapolate more on this item ?	Please note this is not about items not covered under the contract. This is about the any and all such services that the consultant is required to perform under the FIDIC yellow book but not have been specifically covered specifically covered under item (i) to (xxvii), pages 12, 13, 14 & 15 of the RFP
54	16	Item (c) Project Management including Documentation and Reporting -page 16 Reference is made to the software use. Can you confirm that the preference is for either ONE of the software named, ie Microsoft Project OR P6?	Preference is for Microsoft Project.
55		Regarding Material Inspections, we assume most of the works would be done locally, however as you aware for specific items under the contract, the team would require to visit the factories outside of Guyana. Please confirm how would this cost be captured.	In the event of visit to factories outside of Guyana, the Client and/or the Contractor would take care of the logistical arrangements and/or the Consultant will be reimbursed any out-of-pocket expense approved in advance by the Client.
56	23	Item (e) Social Development Supervision- pg. 23- this item speaks about the need to address Land Acquisition & Resettlement claims. Please advise if all the required properties required to complete this project already been acquired? The document speaks to the need for legal opinions on these matters, we assume the legal opinion would be supplied by the state on these matters. Please confirm	With reference to the TOR, Section 3, subsection 'e' Social Development Supervision item "ii" is amended to read Facilitate needed survey, consultations, and preparation of LARP (as a supplementary document) necessary for the Client to secure all requisite clearances legal opinions and agreements as well compensation to APs prior commencement of civil works. (Clarification # 40 is amended).

57		<p>On the last list of clarification several questions were posed however we wanted to clarify the following-</p> <p>(a)How many vehicles would be provided under the works contract and would they be fully maintained?</p> <p>(b)You clarified that the office will be at the site, can you confirm the specified layout or space as we want to ensure it is adequate for the staffing specified and required.</p> <p>(c)Regarding QA/QC & Geotechnical Testing, please confirm all testing would be done at approved facilities in Guyana or would testing be done external as well. If tests are carried out outside of Guyana please confirm if costs to witness these tests are borne by the works Contractor.</p> <p>(d)Will Consultant office be fully equipped with all furniture, kitchen appliances, photocopiers, servers and racks, filing cabinets, shelving, drawing racks?</p> <p>(e)Will office cleaning staff & Security be provided by contractor for the consultant's offices?</p>	<p>(a) and (b), (d) and (e)These details may be worked out during negotiation with the successful consultant. In response to question (c) please refer to clarification number 55.</p>
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58	36	<p>Form TECH-4 states “including a detailed description of the proposed methodology and staffing for training, if the Terms of Reference (TOR) specify training as a specific component of the assignment”.</p> <p>Please confirm whether training is required and in what areas specifically</p>	<p>Discrete methodology and staffing for training are not expected and will not be scored separately. However, as stated in Scope of Services, page 21 of the RFP, the Consultant is required to direct the training and orientation of the Client’s personnel in the operation and maintenance of the new facility; this will be an integral part of the construction supervision services. The proposer is therefore expected to demonstrate how this will be effectively achieved.</p>
59		<p>If P6 is chosen as the software of choice, does the Client already have this software with adequate licenses and trained users for same? If not, can purchase of the software with sufficient licenses and training for Client personnel be costed as a reimbursable item?</p>	<p>Microsoft Project is the preferred software.</p>
60		<p>Can a profile of the affected area be provided? (Demography, are there squatters, what's the socio-economic status, are there indigenous persons)</p>	<p>The successful Consultant will be fully briefed and engaged on these matters upon award of the consulting services contract.</p>
61		<p>Are there any preliminary reports on the potential impacts and number of homes/ persons to be affected?</p>	<p>The successful Consultant will be provided with the preliminary reports upon award of the consulting services contract.</p>
62		<p>We kindly ask for your consideration for a Three week extension to the bid submission deadline to April 12, 2022 based on the clarifications issued today and ones now to be answered.</p>	<p>No further extensions can be accommodated.</p>
63		<p>"Compliances Consultants must submit valid certificates of compliance from the Guyana Revenue Authority (GRA), National Insurance Scheme (NIS), and VAT registration. (where applicable). Does this apply to international companies not resident in Guyana?</p>	<p>No. The relevant compliances is only applicable to firms registered to do businesses in Guyana.</p>

64		Request for 3 weeks Extension	No further extensions can be accommodated.
65	5	Please elucidate the tax liabilities (Income tax / Other taxes) for an international firm. Also, please confirm whether the withholding tax be reimbursed by the Client on monthly / annual basis.	Please refer to clause 13 of the letter of invitation of the RFP. For further clarity on tax liability for international firms please contact the Guyana Revenue Authority Tax Advisory Services on 227-6060 ext 8000 or email : taxadvisory@gra.gov.gy
66	5	Please clarify the tax liabilities (applicability & rate of tax in %) for Resident and Non-Resident personnel of International Firms.	Please contact the Guyana Revenue Authority Tax Advisory Services on 227-6060 ext 8000 or email : taxadvisory@gra.gov.gy for information on tax liability rate for Resident and Non-Resident personnel of international firms.
67	70	Will the Client pay directly in Bank Account of the International Consultant in its respective country, or we need to open account in Guyana for the same?	If requested, the Client can pay directly to a foreign bank account under clause 44.1 of SCC, page 79, the single currency of payment is United States Dollars. Under 45.1 (e) of SCC, same page, the Consultant may provide up to two accounts (a) one to deposit the payment in foreign currency and (b) the other to deposit in equivalent local currency.
68	67	In case the successful bidder is an International Firm, is there a need for the firm to Register their Company in Guyana? If yes, please provide the approximate cost and time required for the same.	There is no specific requirement for firm to register company in Guyana.
69	-	Kindly convey the approximate fee for work permit and residence permit in Guyana.	Please contact the Department of Citizenship, Ministry of Home Affairs. Email: moccanolprimo@gmail.com

70	-	<p>Please specify the area of Consultant's Site Office to be provided through the Civil Works Contract. Whether the Consultant's Site Office would be fully furnished and maintained during entire consultancy period including electricity charges, water charges, internet/data charges and office-staff, office supplies, etc. through Civil Works Contract?</p> <p>Please specify the number of vehicles to be provided through the Civil Works Contract. Also, please convey if the Consultant has to procure any particular software for Design/Design Review and the number of licenses required?</p>	<p>The details will be worked out during negotiation with the successful consultant.</p>
71	-	<p>As per RFP Document and subsequent clarifications issued by the Client, there is a requirement of similar experience of Projects of value over USD 200 million against certain Key Expert positions, and in case of Bridge Engineer, experience of two (2) Bridge Construction Projects of value over USD 200 million is required. We wish to bring out that Professionals with such high value experience are not available in Guyana (as this is first of its kind Project in Guyana) and most Asian countries (due to low purchase parity, Projects of equivalent magnitude in terms of length, span etc. do not have that high value in terms of Cost). We are, therefore, looking for such experts in North America and Europe and need more time to finalize the team of Experts for the Project.</p> <p>In view of the above, it is once again requested to kindly consider our tenable request to extend the deadline of submission of Proposals by 2 weeks, i.e., up to 5th April 2022.</p>	<p>No further extensions can be accommodated.</p>