Questions and Answers

ITB/FJI/JPN/001/20 – supply of communication equipment

Questions and Answers

Date: 28 January 2020

Question	Answer
Is it possible for you to give any information about the current state of affairs of the radio communication equipment already at the sites?	The existing radios in the field can be classified in 2 different categories: Cat 1- HF Radios working with limited power and features, either the initial installation was NOT done correctly, or wear and tear has deteriorated it's physical condition due to the environmental exposure or lack of proper maintenance. Cat 2 - VHF radios is also similar to the CAT 1 status but different brands and installation can be seen flooding the project located areas with minimum operation capabilities. In summary the existing condition is working but not to the full capacity in terms of coverage and features.
I am looking for the brand of equipment and manufacturer location/country.	The brand CODAN, BARRET, KENWOOD, ICOM scattered all over the locations with some earlier model mix with old units. This inconsistency brand is mainly cause from the different consultant and grand funding past projects, most of the vendor uses available cheap easy of the shelve purchase which usually doesn't last.
Suppliers I have reached out to have expressed concern about the compatibility of their equipment with the pre-existing technology.	Please refer to the Technical Specification Requirement attached to the solicitation document where detailed description of the required equipment is provided. The Technical Specification Requirement was drafted by the group of experts based on current situation in the countries of use to ensure compatibility.
We are working on this Procurement and have had some delays because of the various parts/components of the overall project and we still are trying to understand how/what will be used for the HF Data side of this project? We are capable of supplying virtually the whole project components but we need to know if that is desired i.e. Radios, PC/Laptops, Modems and supporting accessories and training/installation services?	Please kindly refer to Section 5a: Schedule of Requirements and Technical Specifications / Bill of Quantities of ITB/FJI/JPN/001/20 that provides detailed information on required for this project components and items to be supplied by the successful bidder.

We respectfully also ask if you could extend the deadline until Feb 26 as there are still some things we and our local in country (Fiji) partner are working out collectively. We are intending to supply the whole project as a joint effort from USA side and Fiji together but need a little more time to sort this out.	Considering project short time and importance of the activities we cannot extend the deadline until 26 February 2020. However, project agreed to prolong bids submission deadline for additional five days, i.e. until 23.59 NY time on 6 February 2020 if you can prepare and submit your proposal by this time.
Further I personally will be in Fiji in February from February 16-23 for meetings and would be most interested in possibly meeting with Fiji end users if that can be arranged to further discuss the roll out/deployment as well as fine tune the components and again it would be most helpful if the deadline could follow my visit to Fiji so that I can be as accurate in our submission as possible.	End-users are in Palau and Federated States of Micronesia. Besides, in person meetings with end-users or UNDP representatives within tender is not allowed. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us in writing.
What company(s) manufactured specifically the transceivers?	ANS - Existing transceiver ranges from ICOM, CODAN, BARRET, KENWOOD
Are there any height requirements or restrictions for the antennas?	ANS - HF antenna - "Various heights of 6, 10 and 12 meters may be required and should be made up of the shorter sections fitted together with the required guy sets." VHF Antenna - 2 metres long with Type N female connector
What are the necessary transmission gains from the antennas?	**Frequency Range:** 150-160 MHz; **Gain:** 2.15 dBi; **Frequency Range:** 2-30 MHz; **Gain:** 2 dBi
Please advise if where antennas are concerned (Lot 2.1), if the unit of gain is dBi or dBd, as this will have a huge impact on the offer both technically and financially?	The specification refers "Lot 2.1" - dB (decibel) for VHF antenna. When an antenna's signal strength is compared to the isotropic antenna, any gain in signal strength stated in decibels is denoted with a lower case letter 'i' following the unit dB. Hence, dBi