

Notice of Inviting Expression of Interest through Internet

9 November 2011

Agreement No. CE 48/2011 (EP)
Environmental Project Office for the
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road,
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities,
& Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link – Investigation

Invitation for Expression of Interest

Interested consultants are invited to express their interest in undertaking the above consultancy.

Consultants should fulfill and declare that they have met the following longlisting criteria for their submissions to be considered further: -

- (i) The consultants should have at least 4 professional staff in Hong Kong with relevant expertise in the professional service category under Environmental Studies (S11).

Interested consultants may obtain an Electronic Invitation Package (EIP) in the context of Works Bureau Technical Circular No. 17/2001 for the assignment by contacting the following officers of Highway Department: -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Fax</u>
Mr. Matthew FUNG	Senior Engineer	2762 3589	3188 5228
Ms. Kei PONG	Engineer	2762 3424	3188 5228

The scope of this assignment, which is planned to commence in February 2012, is indicated in the draft Brief at **Annex A** of the EIP. The draft Schedule of Fees is attached at **Annex B** of the EIP.

If you are interested in this assignment, please reply to Project Manager/Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge at 4/F, Ho Man Tin Government Offices, 88 Chung Hau Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon, Hong Kong for the attention of Mr. Albert LIU, CE/NWNT, before **12:00 noon on 25 November 2011 (Friday)** by submitting **seven** sets of documents containing the following information in a maximum of four A4 pages with a minimum font size of 12 points Times New Roman: -

- (a) your broad approach to the assignment and appreciation of the requirements;
- (b) previous relevant experience both in Hong Kong and elsewhere;
- (c) an indication of key staff likely to be employed for the assignment (together with attachments showing their curriculum vitae and an organisation chart of the study/project team as necessary);
- (d) an indication of sub-consultants to be employed; and
- (e) your comments on the draft Brief and the draft Schedule of Fees.

Please note that no attachment, except attachments for the curriculum vitae of the key staff likely to be employed on the consultancy and the organisation chart of the study/project team as mentioned above, should be included in your submission. Late submissions or submissions that do

not conform to the requirements in respect of the number of pages, the page size, the font size or the attachments shall not be considered.

If a black rainstorm warning or typhoon signal No. 8 or above is hoisted between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on the closing date for receipt of the submissions, the closing date shall be extended to 12:00 noon on the following working day (excluding Saturday). Late submissions shall not be considered.

You may make your submission in either electronic format or hard copy format. If part of the submission is made in both electronic and hard copy formats, the electronic format shall prevail over the corresponding hard copy format. If you elect to make your submission in the electronic format, the documents for your proposal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with **Annex C** of the EIP – “Requirements for Submission of Proposal in Electronic Format”. All proposals, whether submitted in electronic format or in hard copy format, will be evaluated on an equal basis. Notwithstanding paragraph 16 in WBTC No. 31/2001, the Expression of Interest in either format shall be submitted directly to this Office at the address given in this letter.

The electronic documents for preparing your submission are included in the attached CD-ROM and are listed in Schedule 2 to the Licence Conditions for Electronic Invitation Packages. You will be deemed to have accepted these conditions if you use these documents listed in Schedule 2.

The assessment criteria and weightings for marking the expression of interest submitted by consultants and the composition of the assessment panel are given in **Annex D** of the EIP. For this Agreement, the Assessment Panel has agreed that the past performance of sub-consultants will **not** be assessed in the technical proposals to be submitted by the shortlisted consultants in the Technical and Fee Proposal stage. However, the past performance of sub-consultants of any discipline shall continue to be a mandatory assessment criterion in the Expression of Interest stage.

If you are a limited liability company, then you are required to submit documentary proof that the majority of the voting power in meetings of the company shall be held by directors who are consulting engineers (or architects or equivalent professionals of associated professions).

You are reminded that you shall not be in any way an associated body of the Contractor or the Environmental Team for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities, and Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link.

Your attention is also drawn to ETWB TCW No. 18/2005 regarding the conflict of interest and debarring of selected consultants and any of their consultants from participating in any subsequent exercise for the procurement of any goods and/or services arising out of or which was the very subject of the consultancy. The ENPO will be the independent checkers on the environmental monitoring works of the HZMB Hong Kong Projects, which comprise the HKLR, the HKBCF and the TM-CLKL Projects. Your attention is drawn to the possible conflict of interests between the subsequent contracts for the HZMB Hong Kong Projects and this Agreement.

You are also required to declare any involvement or interest if it is considered by you to be in real or apparent conflict with the duties to be performed for this consultancy. Any involvement or interest declared would be carefully considered but would not automatically bar you from being further considered in the selection process.

You are required to comply with the requirements as described in **Annex E** of the EIP – “Requirements of Quality Management System Certification of Consultants”, and submit all necessary documents together with your Expression of Interest submission.

The initial list of the qualified consultants approached for this Assignment is attached at **Annex F** of the EIP for your information. Based on the response received, normally four suitable firms will be shortlisted for submission of technical and fee proposals. However, you should note that the Government is not bound to invite technical and fee proposals from any of these consultants expressing an interest.

No consultants are permitted to submit more than one bid for the same agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, consultants who submit a bid in their own name and a bid in the name of an un-incorporated joint venture/partnership (with the consultants concerned as a participant/partner) will be considered as having submitted two bids. Consultants (these must be consulting firms to be eligible for being considered for this consultant selection exercise) having linkages to each other, e.g. subsidiaries, parent or sister companies, are not allowed to bid on the same agreement. Only one firm among such consultants, as the case may be, should be allowed to submit Expression of Interest for this agreement. You are thus required to declare any linkage with other consultants on the above list. The existence of a holding-subsidiary relationship shall be determined in accordance with the provisions in Section 2(4) to (8) of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32). “Sister companies” shall mean all companies which are subsidiaries of or otherwise belonging to the same holding company. Consultants having linkages should sort out among themselves before submitting the Expression of Interest.

For the purpose of this “no linkage” requirement, an academic institution and any separate entities/companies formed by the same academic institution or any of its current staff, or any two of such entities/companies (whether formed by the same staff or not), shall be regarded as “linked”. An academic institution, and all such entities/companies formed by it or any of its current staff (whether by the same staff or not), shall be allowed to submit only one Expression of Interest for the same consultancy agreement. You are also required to declare any such linkage with other consultants on the above list, if applicable. An entity/company is regarded as formed by the academic institution or its staff if the latter is a partner/shareholder or a director of the former, whether or not the latter is a founding partner/subscriber when the entity/company was formed.

Failure to observe this “no linkage” requirement shall render all related Expression of Interests submitted null and void and any such submission shall not be considered.

Please note that where the consultants are a non-resident corporation or, where the consultants are an unincorporated joint venture or a partnership or a sole proprietorship, any one of the participants or partners or the sole proprietor is a non-resident, the Government shall withhold a percentage equivalent to the prevailing Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (hereinafter referred to as Hong Kong) profits tax rate applicable to unincorporated and incorporated business at the time the services are rendered (the current rates being 15% for unincorporated business and 16.5% for incorporated business for the year of assessment of 2010/2011) of any fee payable to the consultants, whether by way of lump sum, installments or discounted payments, but exclusive of any reimbursement of expenses, if any, in respect of the Services performed / provided in Hong Kong for the settlement of Hong Kong profits tax chargeable on the fee. Any balance representing the excess of fees so withheld in the basis period of the year of assessment over the consultants’ tax liability for that year will be returned to consultants without interest within a reasonable time upon final determination and settlement of their tax liabilities.

Where the consultants are a non-resident corporation or, where the consultants are an unincorporated joint venture or a partnership or a sole proprietorship, any one of the participants or partners or the sole proprietor is a non-resident, should they be awarded the consultancy, such data [including but not limited to their names, nature of engagement, consultancy period, consultancy fee, correspondence address (both local and overseas) and the amount of tax withheld] will be notified/provided to the Inland Revenue Department for tax assessment and collection purposes.

“Non-resident” means in the case of an individual, one who maintains a place of abode outside Hong Kong; and in the case of a corporation, one which is not incorporated in Hong Kong.

Consultants shall declare their resident status or the sole proprietor’s resident status in their consultancy proposals. If the consultants are an unincorporated joint venture or a partnership, the consultants must declare the resident status of each and every participant or partner thereof. A sample declaration letter is given in ETWB TCW No. 34/2004 and extracted at **Annex G** of the EIP for your reference.

Please note that this invitation is made **before** all the necessary funds for the consultancy have been approved. The Government reserves the right to cancel this selection exercise for not having the necessary funds approved or for any other reason, in which case you will accordingly be notified. It should be noted that the Government will not be responsible for the reimbursement of any cost incurred by you for the preparation of the submission.

Your attention is also drawn to the ETWB TC(W) No. 3/2005 regarding the novation of consultancy agreement. A consultant who has requested for novation of consultancy agreements pursuant to the provision in the circular would not be invited to bid for or be awarded any further consultancies. Similarly, bids submitted by consultants who engage such a consultant as a sub-consultant would not be considered.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following submissions will not be counted as the four A4 size pages as described in the 5th paragraph on Page 1 of this notice:

Submissions to be returned to this office	Relevant paragraphs and pages in this notice to be referred to
(i) Declaration of meeting the longlisting criteria	2 nd paragraph on Page 1
(ii) Documentary proof in relation to voting power if you are a limited liability company	6 th paragraph on Page 2
(iii) Declaration of any involvement or conflict of interest	9 th paragraph on Page 2
(iv) Necessary documents to comply with the Requirements of Quality Management System Certification of Consultants	1 st paragraph on Page 3
(v) Declaration of any linkage with other consultants on the initial list of qualified consultants approached	4 th and 5 th paragraphs on Page 3
(vi) Declaration of resident status	3 rd paragraph on Page 4

Please note that documents of unsuccessful consulting firms will be destroyed three months after the date of the Agreement has been awarded and signed.

If you have any queries, please contact Senior Engineer, Mr. Matthew FUNG at 2762 3589 or Engineer, Ms. Kei PONG at 2762 3424.