

Notice of Inviting Expression of Interest through Internet

28 March 2013

Agreement No. CE 7/2013(GE) **Roadside Slope Engineer Inspections (2013-2018) in Urban Region - Investigation**

Interested consultants are invited to express 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:

- (a) The consultants shall have at least **seven** professional staff in Hong Kong in Geotechnical Engineering/Geology (S2) discipline.
- (b) The consultants shall have at least **ten** professional staff (including the seven professional staff required in (a) above) in Hong Kong in General Civil Engineering (A1) and Geotechnical Engineering/Geology (S2) disciplines.

The invitation documents, referred to as Electronic Invitation Package (EIP) are contained in CD-ROM. Interest consultants may obtain an EIP in context of Works Bureau Technical Circular (WBTC) No. 17/2001 for the assignment by contacting the following officers of Highways Department:.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Post</u> | <u>Telephone</u> | <u>Fax. No.</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. L. F. AU | Senior Engineer | 2231 5682 | 2152 0429 |
| Mr. Jimmy YAN | Engineer | 2231 5728 | 2152 0429 |

The scope of this assignment, which is currently expected to commence in August 2013, is indicated in the draft Brief given in **Annex A** of the EIP, while the draft Schedule of Fees is given in **Annex B** of the EIP.

If you are interested in this assignment, please reply to this office before **12:00 noon on 19 April 2013 (Friday)** by submitting **five** sets of documents containing the following information in a maximum of four A4 pages with a minimum font size of 12 of the Times New Roman fonts:-

- (a) your 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 organization chart of the study/project team as necessary);
- (d) an indication of sub-consultants to be employed (which should include all individual academic institutions, specialists, advisors, experts and the like proposed to be externally engaged to provide the Services under the Agreement, and all references to “sub-consultants” in this notice should be construed accordingly); and
 - (e) your comments on the draft Brief and the draft Schedule of Fees.

Your reply must be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly indicating **your company’s name** and the Agreement No. [**Agreement No. CE 7/2013(GE)**] and marked **“Restricted (Contract)”**. It should be addressed to the **Urban Region, Highways Department at 7/F, North Point Government Offices, 333 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong** for attention of **Chief Highway Engineer/Hong Kong**. If a black rainstorm warning signal or typhoon signal No. 8 or above is hoisted between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon on the closing day for receipt of the submissions, the closing date shall be extended to 12:00 noon on the following working day (excluding Saturday). Late submissions will not be considered.

Please note that no attachments, except attachments for the curriculum vitae of the key staff likely to be employed on the consultancy and the organization 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.

You may make your submission in either electronic format or hard copy format. If part of the submissions 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 electronic format, the documents for your proposal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the “Requirements for Submission of Proposal in Electronic Format” in **Annex C** of the EIP. Submissions from consultants whether submitted in electronic format or hard copy format, will be evaluated on an equal basis. Notwithstanding paragraph 16 of WBTC No. 31/2001, the Expression of Interest in either format shall be submitted directly to this Office at the address given in this notice.

The electronic documents for preparing your submission are listed in Schedule 2 to the “Licence Conditions for Electronic Invitation Packages” (**Attachment 1**). You will be deemed to have accepted the Licence Conditions if you use the documents listed in Schedule 2.

The assessment criteria and weightings for making the Expression of Interest submitted by consultants and the composition of the Assessment Panel are given in **Annex D** of the EIP. For information, the past performance of sub-consultants of any disciplines shall be a mandatory assessment criterion in the Expression of Interest stage. However, 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.

You are required to comply with the requirements as described in the “Requirements of Quality Management System Certification of Consultants” in **Annex E** of the EIP, and submit all necessary documents together with your Expression of Interest submission. This information will not be counted as part of the four A4 size pages.

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 Assignment. This information will not be counted as part of the four A4 size pages. Any involvement or interest declared would be carefully considered but would not automatically bar you from being further considered in the selection process.

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 equivalent professionals of associated professions). This information will not be counted as part of the four A4 size pages.

Please note that where a consultant is a non-resident corporation or, where a consultant is an unincorporated joint venture or partnership or 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 2012/2013) of any fee payable to the consultant, 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 consultant’s tax liability for that year will be returned to the consultants without interest within a reasonable time upon final determination and settlement of its tax liabilities.

Where the consultant is a non-resident corporation or, where the consultant is an unincorporated joint venture or partnership or sole proprietorship, any one of the participants or partners or the sole proprietor is a non-resident, should it be awarded the Agreement, 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 a consultant is an unincorporated joint venture or partnership, the consultant 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. This information will not be counted as part of the four A4 pages.

The initial list of qualified consultants invited to submit Expression of Interest for this Assignment is given in **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, please note that this invitation is made before 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.

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 a consultancy agreement. You are thus required to declare any linkage with other consultants on the above list. The existence of a holding-subsidary 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 any 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 requirement shall render all related Expression of Interest submitted null and void and any such submission shall not be considered.

Your attention is also drawn to ETWB TC(W) No. 3/2005 regarding the novation of consultancy agreement. A consultant who has requested 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.

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

If you have any Enquiries, please contact the following officers of Highways Department:.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Post</u> | <u>Telephone</u> | <u>Fax. No.</u> |
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