



The First MicroFinanceBank
اولین بانک قرضه های کوچک

The First Microfinance Bank Afghanistan (FMFB-A)

Request for Proposal For Colocation Datacenter Service “Dubai”

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1. Statement of Work

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to invite prospective Bidders to submit a proposal for providing the colocation services for Hosting FMFB-A' DR site. Through this RFP the bank invites the participants who are interested and can full fill the eligibility criteria to bid.

1.2 Coverage and Participation

The intended coverage of this RFP, and any agreement resulting from this solicitation, shall be for the use of all departments at FMFB-A. FMFB-A reserves the right not to enter into any contract, to add and/or delete elements, or to change any element of the agreement and participation at any time without prior notification and without any liability or obligation of any kind or amount.

2. General Information

2.1 Original RFP Document

FMFB-A shall retain the RFP, and all related terms and conditions, exhibits and other attachments, in original form in an archival copy. Any modification of these, in the vendor's submission, is grounds for immediate disqualification.

2.2 The Bank

The First MicroFinanceBank-Afghanistan (FMFB-A) started operations in 2004 and is part of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM), which has financial institutions operating in over 15 countries throughout the developing world. It is affiliated with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of nine development agencies working in health, education, culture and rural economic development primarily in Asia and Africa.

Our primary objective in Afghanistan is to contribute to poverty alleviation and economic development through the provision of sustainable financial services to the poor and underserved. Since 2016, we are a member of the Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) – an independent network of banks using finance to deliver sustainable economic, social and environmental development. Our values- based banking agenda focuses on providing affordable financial services that promote entrepreneurship, agriculture, incremental housing and clean energy in Afghanistan. The First MicroFinanceBank-Afghanistan is operating in 14 provinces through 38 branches and 9 loan processing offices covering 80 districts.

2.3 Schedule of Events

The following is a tentative schedule that will apply to this RFP but may change in accordance with the organization's needs or unforeseen circumstances. Changes will be communicated by e-mail to all invited bidders.

KEY DATES AND DETAILS	
EVENT	DATES
Closing Time for submission of Proposals	15 th January, 2021 at 4.00pm, Kabul time
Method to Submit Proposal	<p>Proposals can be submitted in hard as well as soft, indicating the project name: Project name: Colocation Datacenter Service "Dubai" of The First Microfinance Bank</p> <p>The Proposal is to be submitted to the Professional Services Department (PSD) of the bank (bank's address indicated below) by the</p>



	<p>closing time specified above: Professional Services Department The First MicroFinanceBank – Afghansitan Address: Lane 8, Kolola Pushta Road, District 4, Kabul – Afghanistan</p> <p><i>Note: Proposals lodged in any manner other than as detailed in the above paragraphs, or are submitted after the deadline shall be deemed to be invalid and may be excluded from consideration.</i></p>
Contact Persons	Mohammad Muhib Kabiri, Procurement Manager muhib.kabiri@fmfb.com.af
Expected execution date of Contract	25 January, 2021

3. Proposal Preparation Instructions

3.1 Bidder's Understanding of the RFP

In responding to this RFP, the Bidder accepts the responsibility to fully understand the RFP in its entirety, and in detail, including making any inquiries to FMFB-A as necessary to gain such understanding. FMFB-A reserves the right to disqualify any Bidder who demonstrates less than such understanding. Further, FMFB-A reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, whether the vendor has demonstrated such understanding. That right extends to cancellation of award prior to contract signing, if an award has been made. Such disqualification and/or cancellation shall be at no fault, cost, or liability whatsoever to FMFB-A.

3.2 Good Faith Statement

All information provided by FMFB-A in this RFP is offered in good faith. Individual items are subject to change at any time. FMFB-A makes no certification that any item is without error. FMFB-A is not responsible or liable for any use of the information or for any claims asserted there from.

3.3 Communication

Verbal communication shall not be effective unless formally confirmed in writing by the specified procurement official in charge of managing this RFP process. In no case shall verbal communication govern over written communication.

3.3.1 Vendors' Technical Inquiries. Applicable terms and conditions herein shall govern communications and inquiries between FMFB-A and Bidders as they relate to this RFP. Inquiries, questions, and requests for clarification related to this RFP are to be directed in writing to:

FMFB-A
IT Department/ Head Office, Kabul
Lane 8, Kolola Pushta Road, District 4,
Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul - Afghanistan.

Attention: Abdul Fahim
E-mail: Abdul.fahim@fmfb.com.af



3.3.2 Informal communications shall include, but are not limited to: requests from/to Bidders or Bidders' representatives in any capacity, to/from any FMFB-A employee or representative of any kind or capacity with the exception for information, comments, speculation, etc. Inquiries for clarifications and information that will not require addenda may be submitted verbally to the above named at any time.

3.4 Proposal Submissions

Proposals can be submitted sealed to the below address as well as via email:

FMFB-A
IT Department/ Head Office, Kabul
Lane 8, Kolola Pushta Road, District 4
Shahr-e-Naw, Kabul - Afghanistan

Muhib Kabiri
Procurement Manager
Muhib.kabiri@fmfb.com.af

Vendors are to submit one (1) original copy of proposal marked "Original" and one (1), marked "Copy." Each original and copy must be individually bound.

3.5 Method of Award

The evaluation of each response to this RFP will be based on its demonstrated competence, compliance, format, and enterprise. The purpose of this RFP is to identify those vendors that have the interest, capability, and financial strength to supply FMFB-A with the following Scope of Work.

Following will be Evaluation Criteria but not limited to:

1. Capability of vendor to meet or exceed requirements set forth in Scope of Work.
2. Expressed interest in working with FMFB-A.
3. Ability of vendor to communicate its vision and capacity for establishing a relationship that addresses current and future needs and trends in the industry.
4. Desirability of proposed solution.
5. Cost effectiveness

3.6 Selection and Notification

Bidders determined by FMFB-A that possess the capacity to compete for this contract will be selected to move into the negotiation phase of this process. Written notification will be sent to these vendors via mail. Those vendors not selected for the negotiation phase will not be notified.

4. Scope of Work, Specifications and Requirements:

The First Microfinance Bank is hosting its Primary Data Center in Kabul Afghanistan and now planning to host an out of country Disaster Recovery site. The purpose of this RFP is to identify the qualified service provider who comply with the conditions and technical requirement of this RFP to help FMFB-A with DR hosting by providing the colocation services FMFB-A is planning to host a dedicated 42U rack with estimated power consumption of 5 KVA loaded with Servers, Storage and network devices in a shared colocation. In addition, a minimum of 10 MB dedicated internet with /29 public IP subnet or shared link with sufficient bandwidth with capacity of transferring gigabytes of data between PR and DR Sites.



4.1 Eligibility Criteria:

- Bidders should provide and ensure a Tier 3 data center.
- Bidder should provide and ensure an uninterrupted and N+ redundant power sources
- The bidder provides and ensure the fire suppression and smoke detector alarm for the entire facility
- The bidder should provide an advance security system, monitoring and log/event management.
- The bidder should provide a 24/7 surveillance and ensure the entire premise is monitoring via the CCTV and maintain records for minimum 90 days.
- The bidder shall ensure FMFB-A server rack is equipped with biometric authentication.
- The bidder should ensure that all service provided must be backed by the SLA
- The bidder should ensure and provide the physical access to the data center facility is protected with biometric system or card based.
- The bidder should provide 24/7 customer support.
- The bidder should ensure and provide remote hands services.
- The bidder should provide 24/7 access if needed and access card to the bank representative.
- The bidder should provide redundant connectivity to the side.
- The bidder should ensure a controlled temperature for the entire data center facility using standard cooling systems.
- The cabinets are to be equipped with smart PDUs.
- The bidder shall ensure to have cyber security operation center.
- The bidder shall use data center infrastructure that comply with the standards specifically ISO 27001.
- The bidder should ensure the physical and logical security of the data center premise.
- The bidder should have not been backlisted by any authority or country

6. Experience and Qualification:

Only those bidders, who fulfill the following criteria are eligible to respond to this RFP, Bids received from the bidders who do not fulfill any of the following eligibility criteria are liable to be rejected

- ✓ The bidder should be legal entity registered in Afghanistan or internationally
- ✓ The bidder must have at least ten years of experience providing the data center services
- ✓ The bidder should provide a Tier 3 data center services
- ✓ The bidder should have ISO 27001, PCI-DSS and ISO 9001 datacenter certification as an advantage.
- ✓ The bidders must have qualified and experienced resources.
- ✓ The bidder shall provide high average uptime of >99.9999.
- ✓ The bidder datacenter should have standard raised floor and low flood risk.
- ✓ The bidders must be able to provide client references for whom similar services provided specifically from Financial Industry of the region.

7. Proposal Currency:

All the prices for this proposal shall be denominated in USD



8. Timeline:

The timeline for this project should be clearly stated and the number of days or weeks required for each phases of this engagement. Also, the service provider shall assign the account manager for this engagement

9. None Disclosure Agreement:

The winner for this bid shall sign Non-Disclosure Agreement with FMFB-A prior starting the project.

10. Bidder Certification:

This certification attests to the Bidder's awareness and agreement to the content of this RFP and all accompanying calendar schedules and provisions contained herein.

The Bidder must ensure that the following certificate is duly completed and correctly executed by an authorized officer of your company.

This proposal is submitted in response to RFP issued by FMFB-A. The undersigned is a duly authorized officer, hereby certifies that:

(Bidder Name) _____

agrees to be bound by the content of this proposal and agrees to comply with the terms, conditions, and provisions of the referenced RFP and any addenda thereto in the event of an award. Exceptions are to be noted as stated in the RFP. The proposal shall remain in effect for a period of thirty (30) calendar days as of the Due Date of the RFP.

The undersigned further certify that their firm (check one):

- IS
- IS NOT

currently debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment by any Govt./other entity. The undersigned agree to notify FMFB-A of any change in this status, should one occur, until such time as an award has been made under this procurement action.

Person(s) authorized to negotiate on behalf of this firm for purposes of this RFP are:

Name: _____	Title: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____
Name: _____	Title: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____

Signature of Authorized Officer:

Name: _____	Title: _____
Signature: _____	Date: _____