



ROOTS OF PEACE

Request for Quotation Number: RFQ-AMP-2021-011

Title:	Provision of Wireless/Microwave Fiber Optic Internet Connection – Point to Point connection for AMP Kabul Offices
For:	Agriculture Marketing Program (AMP)
Required in:	Kabul, Afghanistan
Issue Date:	Apr 5 th 2021
Deadline for Questions:	Apr 12 th 2021
Closing Date:	Apr 19 th , 2021
Funded by:	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Agreement No.:	72030620CA00002
Submission for Questions:	mohammad.rasul@rootsofpeace.org, mohammad.bashir@rootsofpeace.org Email Subject should have: RFQ-AMP-2021-011, Internet Services
Quotations Submission Address:	AMP-PROCUREMENT@rootsofpeace.org
Validity:	90 Days
Submission Method:	Bidders are requested to submit their bids through email only. AMP-PROCUREMENT@rootsofpeace.org
Type of Award:	Fixed Priced Purchase Order Agreement
Contract Duration:	12 Months

THIS RFQ IS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE RFQ, THE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF PURCHASE ORDER AGREEMENT (POA) AND, IF APPLICABLE, ANY OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT.

Invitation

AMP requests Quotations from eligible Internet Service Providers, who have the required experience and capabilities of taking up this service to provide Internet services 33mbps uplink and 33mbps downlink dedicated 1:1 bandwidth, Microwave Licensed Frequency with 99.5% reliability or higher with backup link 100% Fiber Optic and 50% VSAT for ROP/AMP Kabul Offices, 15mbps for MAIL Office, Karta-e-Sakhi, 12mbps Front Office Karta-e-Char and 6mbps BARON Office Near Kabul Airport. Internet Service Providers (ISP) should be able to provide high-speed, reliable, supportable, and sustainable Internet access to ROP/AMP Kabul Offices.

Background

The Agricultural Marketing Program (AMP) builds on the successes of Roots of Peace's 10-year Commercial Horticulture & Agriculture Marketing Program (CHAMP), and aims over the 3-year period of implementation to increase export volumes and values, introduce new agricultural products to the market, diversify export markets and increase value-added processing. The increased exports will create additional demand for agricultural products that will drive job growth in rural areas. Key objectives/targets include increases in exports by \$450 million, domestics sales by US\$50 million and jobs by 4,500.

AMP works primarily with private sector agribusinesses, but also engages the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI), the Export Promotion Agency of Afghanistan (EPAA) and other USAID-funded agricultural programs including (AVC-Crops, AVC-Livestock, RADP East and PVC-West). Specific attention is given to support the participation of women and youth in AMP activities.

Roots of Peace History

Founder Heidi Kuhn became gravely aware of landmines, and their lasting effects on economies, upon the tragic death of Princess Diana in 1997. Motivated by the Princess's compassion and commitment to global demining, Kuhn began Roots of Peace in honor of Diana's memory and to ensure that her work would continue. Heidi's vision was to turn **MINES TO VINES** by replacing the scourge of landmines with bountiful vineyards worldwide. Initial support from the California wine industry helped turn Heidi's dreams into a reality.

With funding from the public and private sector and countless generous donors, Roots of Peace has worked in numerous continents to bring economic empowerment to populations living in post-conflict regions. We have raised both awareness and funds to remove one million landmines and UXO worldwide and plant over five million trees to give farmers access to land that was previously deemed too dangerous to develop. To ensure economic development, we work beyond demining and assist farmers so that they have the tools and resources to grow, market and sell their products effectively and efficiently. We bring dignity to farmers and families living on war-torn lands for future generations to thrive.

1. General Overview

Offeror is expected to provide a general overview of his company (Profile), scop, capacity and ability to provide smooth and reliable internet service in all mentioned provinces.

2. Scope of work

Microwave Licensed Frequency with 99.5% reliability or higher connection along with all required and existing equipment, installation, configuration and maintenance with contention ratio 1:1 (dedicated) wireless Internet package along with a backup links VSAT 50% Onsite Each.

Note : Not yaclik.

- Traffic Monitoring Tool, Public IP Addresses, Spam/Virus/Malware/Phishing, Protocol and Web Content Filtering, Commercial Anti-virus software
- 24/7 Technical Support
- Internet Service Type: Microwave Licensed Frequency with 99.5% reliability or higher, 1:1 dedicated Bandwidth, Backup link 100% Fiber Optic and 50 VSAT onsite for each location
- Additional services please indicate separately

3. Site visits

AMP welcomes interested offerors if site visit is required, to come and inspect sites. Potential service providers will be designated with a date and time in which to visit our offices in order to assess the location and better estimate the offered prices.

4. Training

AMP IT staff will be the first point of support should a problem arise. The service provider is expected to design a basic training program and train AMP relevant staff in terms of installation/configuration equipment and should provide initial support.

5. Instructions to Bidders

A. Submission of offers

Submit signed and dated offers to AMP-PROCUREMENT@rootsofpeace.org. **In the subject line kindly indicate RFQ number (RFQ-AMP-2021-011).** In case RFQ number is not mentioned in the subject line, the offer may not be considered for evaluation. All quotations must be submitted in English, as attachments, and in Adobe PDF format.

B. Offer Format

Bidders are requested to submit their offers in accordance with the instructions and requirements described in this RFQ. Failure to adhere to these instructions or requirements may lead to disqualification of a quotation from evaluation:

6. Bidders determination of responsibility.

- a. Should hold valid AISA registration or registration with the respective ministry. Also In the case of Internet Service Provider, the registration with Ministry of Information and Culture.
- b. Should hold valid Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority License.
- c. Quotations and queries should be submitted in English and evaluations will be made in English and when in conflict, English will take precedence over Dari proposals and quotations.
- d. Prices should be quoted in United States Dollars.
- e. Has a valid Tax clearance certificates from Ministry of Finance-Afghanistan.
- f. The offers in response to this RFQ must include all prices including all relevant taxes as per Afghanistan Income Tax Law, AMP will not accept any additional taxes or charges to the awarded entity after an award is made. According to Afghan Income Tax Law, AMP will withhold 2% of the total monthly amount from service providers who hold valid registration licenses with relevant Afghan Ministries and remit the amount to Ministry of Finance.
- g. No advance payment will be provided.
- h. Payments will be made to the service provider only by Bank Transfer, AMP will pay the supplier in accordance with the payment schedule, to be stipulated in the Purchaser Order Agreement, within (30) days of submission of an acceptable invoice by the supplier and AMP's acceptance of services.
- i. AMP reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.
- j. Incomplete or non-compliant offers will not be considered.
- k. Offer must be valid for 90 days from the date of submission and fixed for the total duration of the contract.
- l. AMP may require 5 days of demo before executing the agreement, and all necessary technical reports like bandwidth utilization report should be available as an evidence to evaluate the performance
- m. Clear description of business references and past experience will be positively marked as per the template provided.
- n. Offers may submit a proposal outlining value-added services which could add additional value to the service.
- o. If the scope is sub-contracted to other party, It should be clearly mentioned in the offer.
- p. Offeror's are required to examine all instructions and the specifications contained in this Request for Quotation. The completion and submission to ROP/AMP of the above item will constitute a Quotation and will indicate the Offeror's agreement to the terms and conditions in this RFQ and in any attachments hereto.
- q. Issuance of this RFQ in no way obligates ROP/AMP to award and offerors will not be reimbursed for any cost associated with the preparation of this Quote.
- r. If you are approached by anyone suggesting unlawful actions regarding this RFQ or have any concerns or suspicions that your proposal is not being treated with honesty, transparency, and integrity, please

email to procurement@rootsofpeace.org. Your name and the name of your company will be kept undisclosed.

- s. Describe on what equipment the service providers network is built.
- t. State which satellite(s) the ISP is proposing to use.
- u. Provide details of microwave license frequency and 50% VSAT backup

7. Other Terms and Conditions

1. This RFQ in no way obligates ROP to make an award, nor does it commit ROP to pay any costs incurred by the Offeror in the preparation and submission of a quotation or amendments to a quotation.
2. If there are any significant deficiencies regarding responsiveness to the requirements of this RFQ, an Offer may be deemed "non-responsive" and thereby disqualified from consideration. ROP reserves the right to waive immaterial deficiencies at its discretion.
3. ROP reserves the right to cancel this RFQ at any time.
4. ROP reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons.
5. ROP reserves the right to waive any administrative requirement in this RFQ.
6. If the Offeror anticipates subcontracting any of the work to a subcontractor, the Offeror must provide details of the subcontractor to ROP for approval.
7. All Goods (including, but not limited to, materials, parts, components, and sub-assemblies thereof) shall, unless otherwise expressly approved by ROP in writing, be new, and not used, remanufactured, refurbished or discontinued; and shall be produced entirely from goods meeting all of the foregoing requirements.
8. ROP will have the right to carry out due diligence on any offer received.
9. ROP will not share its internal evaluation documents.

8. Questions:

Offerors are welcome to seek clarifications or ask questions about technical and administrative aspects of this RFQ. All questions or requests for clarification must be in English. Questions or requests for clarification should be submitted to the email mentioned in the cover page before the deadline for questions. Offerors should be aware that their responses to questions or requests for clarification may be shared with other Offerors.

Any verbal information received from employees of ROP, the Beneficiary or any other entity should not be considered as an official response to any questions regarding this RFQ.

9. Prices

Quoted prices should be firm, fixed and all-inclusive. No additional sums will be payable for any change or escalation in the cost of materials, equipment, packaging or labor, warranty-related costs, any and all other costs and charges of whatever description or amount in connection with, necessary for, or resulting from the Offeror's required performance. Price(s) must include all taxes required by the country in which the factory or assembly plant works. ROP will not accept any additional taxes or charges after any resulting award. ROP will only pay after the goods and related services in accordance with the specs mentioned, are successfully provided.

10. Sources and Nationality

The vendor may not supply any goods or services manufactured in or shipped from the following countries: Cuba, Iran, Laos, Libya, North Korea, or Syria. Telecommunication equipment manufactured by Chinese manufacturing companies will not be accepted.

11. Vetting (anti-terrorism screening) Procedure

Please be advised that offeror who is selected to supply equipment valued in excess of \$25,000 will/may be required to pass US Government's anti-terrorism vetting. ROP will detail the procedures once the awardee is notified. In addition to vetting, ROP reserves the right to carry out due diligence on any offers received.

12. General requirements

- a. The copy of valid license shall be provided.
- b. Valid Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority License should be provided.
- c. Has a valid Tax clearance certificate from Ministry of Finance-Afghanistan,

- d. Proof of past experience shall be provided.
- e. Afghanistan TIN Number copy shall be provided.
- f. RFQ Signed and Stamped.
- g. At least 3 references shall be provided.
- h. The service provider shall submit Service Level Agreement detailing what is level of quality of service (Availability, Uptime, Support, Backup) that AMP Kabul offices will receive

13. Financial Offer:

S#	Specification	Bandwidth in MBPS (33mbps for AMP Kabul Offices)	No of Months	Unit Price (USD)/mbps	Total Price (USD)
1	As per the above scope of work AMP require Internet Service 33Mbps Uplink & 33Mbps Downlink dedicated 1:1 bandwidth- Microwave Licensed Frequency with 99.5% reliability or higher with backup link 100% fiber optic and 50% Vsat backup onsite installation each location for ROP/AMP Kabul Offices 15mbps for ROP/AMP MAIL Office, 12mbps for AMP Front Office and 6mbps for AMP BARON Office Note : Not yaclik	33mbps Uplink and 33mbps Downlink	12		

Delivery and Locations:

Kabul	Site Address
MAIL Office	Karta-e-Sakhi, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)
Front Office	Karta-e-Char, Wakil Samad Street, Kabul Afghanistan
Baron Office	Dreshak Hotel, Near Kabul International Airport, Kabul Afghanistan

* Any cost associated with the installation or equipment should be provided separately.

14. Evaluation and Award

The award will be made to a responsible offeror whose offer follows the RFQ instructions, meets the eligibility requirements, and meets or exceeds the minimum required technical specifications, and is judged to be the best value based on a lowest-price technically acceptable (LPTA) basis.

Please note that if there are significant deficiencies regarding responsiveness to the requirements of this RFQ, an offer may be deemed "non-responsive" and thereby disqualified from consideration. ROP reserves the right to waive immaterial deficiencies at its discretion

Criteria	Score
Pricing	30
References	10
Backup Solution	30
Background and Experience	20
Additional & Value Added Services	10
Total Score	100

15. Authorized USAID Geographic Code

All goods and services supplied under this order must meet USAID Geographic Code 935 (Special Free World) requirements as described in the Code of Federal Regulations: 22 CFR §228. No commodities, items with components from, or related services may be offered from the following countries: Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Syria. Related services include transportation through, in coordination with or any related or incidental services pertaining to any/all aspects of this Agreement (including fuel, lodging, meals, board, and communications expenses).

Annex 1. Checklist

Submit signed and dated offers to AMP-PROCUREMENT@rootsofpeace.org

Document 1:

Company Information

Company Name.

Company Address.

Name of Company's Authorized Representative.

Authorized Representative's Email, Phone Number.

Summary of Relevant Capability, Experience and Past Performance minimum three years is required.

References of at least three past clients, providing contact details (name of the client, the client's representative, a contact telephone number and email address) and details of the goods provided.

Copy of their Afghanistan Telecommunication Regulatory Authority License.

Document 2:

Financial Offer preferably on company's letter head.

Indicate fixed costs in each category in the table.

Indicate Overall costs.

Prices quoted in response to this RFQ must be priced in US\$.

Proposed Payment Terms.

Delivery and commissioning terms.

Lead Time for delivery and installation

Duration of Quotation Validity.

Shipping or delivery of goods

Document 3:

Technical offer:

Detailed specifications of the goods offered (preferably with photos).

16. Reference format

Three references are required in the following format. The offeror should not provide its own details but to provide us the details of their 3 referees.

REFERENCE	
INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Name and Address of Company	
Contact Name and Telephone Number	
Details of Service Provided	
Value of Contract	
Duration of Contract	
Duration of Service Provided	

REFERENCE	
INFORMATION REQUIRED	
Name and Address of Company	
Contact Name and Telephone Number	
Details of Service Provided	
Value of Contract	
Duration of Contract	
Duration of Service Provided	

REFERENCE	
INFORMATION REQUIRED	
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Contact Name and Telephone Number	
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