Special instructions to Bidders for e-Tendering

General:

The Special Instructions (for e-Tendering) supplement ‘Instruction to Bidders’, as given in these Tender Documents. Submission of Online Bids is mandatory for this Tender.

E-Tendering is a new methodology for conducting Public Procurement in a transparent and secured manner. Now, the Government of India has made e-tendering mandatory. Suppliers/Vendors will be the biggest beneficiaries of this new system of procurement. For conducting electronic tendering, Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. has decided to use the portal https://www.tcil-india-electronicctender.com through TCIL, a Government of India Undertaking. This portal is based on the world’s most ‘secure’ and ‘user friendly’ software from Electronic Tender®. A portal built using Electronic Tender’s software is also referred to as Electronic Tender System® (ETS).

Benefits to Suppliers are outlined on the Home-page of the portal.

Instructions

Tender Bidding Methodology:

Sealed Bid System

- Single Stage Two Envelope

Broad Outline of Activities from Bidder’s Perspective:

1. Procure a Digital Signing Certificate (DSC)
2. Register on Electronic Tendering System® (ETS)
3. Create Marketing Authorities (MAs), Users and assign roles on ETS. It is mandatory to create at least one MA.
4. View Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on ETS
5. For this tender -- Assign Tender Search Code (TSC) to an MA
6. Download Official Copy of Tender Documents from ETS. Note: Official copy of Tender Documents is distinct from downloading ‘Free Copy of Tender Documents’.
   - To participate in a tender, it is mandatory to procure official copy of Tender Documents for that tender.
7. Clarification to Tender Documents on ETS
   - Query to Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.(Optional)
8. View response to queries posted by Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
9. Bid-Submission on ETS
10. Attend Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE) on ETS
    - Opening of relevant Bid-Part (PQ Application)
11. Post-TOE Clarification on ETS (Optional)
    - Respond to Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. Post-TOE queries
12. Attend Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE) on ETS
    - Opening of relevant part (Financial-Part)
    - (Only for PQ Responsive Bidders)
For participating in this tender online, the following instructions are to be read carefully. These instructions are supplemented with more detailed guidelines on the relevant screens of the ETS.

**Digital Certificates**

For integrity of data and authenticity/non-repudiation of electronic records, and to be compliant with IT Act 2000, it is necessary for each user to have a Digital Certificate (DC), also referred to as Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), of Class 2 or above, issued by a Certifying Authority (CA) licensed by Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA) [refer http://www.cca.gov.in].

**Registration**

To use the Electronic Tender® portal [https://www.tcil-india-electrionictender.com](https://www.tcil-india-electrionictender.com), vendors need to register on the portal. Registration of each organization is to be done by one of its senior persons who will be the main person coordinating for the e-tendering activities. In ETS terminology, this person will be referred to as the Super User (SU) of that organization. For further details, please visit the website/portal, and click on the ‘Supplier Organization’ link under ‘Registration’ (on the Home Page), and follow further instructions as given on the site. Pay Annual Registration Fee as applicable.

**Any Instructions for Online/ Offline Payment of Registration Fee??**

After successful submission of Registration details and Annual Registration Fee, please contact TCIL/ ETS Helpdesk (as given below), to get your registration accepted/activated

**Important Note:** To minimize teething problems during the use of ETS (including the Registration process), it is recommended that the user should peruse the instructions given under ‘ETS User-Guidance Center’ located on ETS Home Page, including instructions for timely registration on ETS. The instructions relating to ‘Essential Computer Security Settings for Use of ETS’ and ‘Important Functionality Checks’ should be especially taken into cognizance.

Please note that even after acceptance of your registration by the Service Provider, to respond to a tender you will also require time to complete activities related to your organization, such as creation of users, assigning roles to them, etc.

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Some Bidding related Information for this Tender (Sealed Bid)

The entire bid-submission would be online on ETS (unless specified for Offline Submissions). Broad outline of submissions are as follows:

- Submission of Bid-Parts/ Envelopes
  - Technical-Part
  - Financial-Part

Offline Submissions:

The bidder is requested to submit the following documents offline to the under mentioned address before the start of Public Online Tender Opening Event in a Sealed Envelope.

Contact Persons Name:
General Manager
Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
North Eastern Regional Office
4th Floor, Hindustan Tower,
Jawahar Nagar, National Highway No.37,
Guwahati(Assam) – 781022

The envelope shall bear (the project name), the tender number and the words ‘DO NOT OPEN BEFORE’ (due date & time).

1. Original copy of the Tender Fee of Rs 2,000/- (Rupees Two Thousand only) in form of DD.
2. Original copy of the EMD of Rs 2,000/- in the form of a Pay Order or DD (in CTS form).
3. Original copy of the letter of authorization shall be indicated by written power-of-attorney.
4. Documentary evidence with regard to registration with NSIC as mentioned in Clause No.1 (h) of NIT for tender fees & EMD waiver.
5. Pass-phrase (Both for technical and financial bid in separate envelope) to decrypt the Bid.

Note: The Bidder should also upload the scanned copies of all the above mentioned original documents as Bid-Annexures during Online Bid-Submission in addition to PQ documents listed in NIT Clause no.1 (a) to 1(i).
**Note: Bidders are required to pay applicable ETS bidding fees online at the time of bid submission.**

**Special Note on Security and Transparency of Bids**

Security related functionality has been rigorously implemented in ETS in a multi-dimensional manner. Starting with ‘Acceptance of Registration by the Service Provider’, provision for security has been made at various stages in Electronic Tender's software. Specifically, for Bid Submission, some security related aspects are outlined below:

As part of the Electronic Encrypter™ functionality, the contents of both the ‘Electronic Forms’ and the ‘Main-Bid’ are securely encrypted using a Pass-Phrase created by the Bidder himself. Unlike a ‘password’, a Pass-Phrase can be a multi-word sentence with spaces between words (eg. I love this World). A Pass-Phrase is easier to remember, and more difficult to break. It is recommended that a separate Pass-Phrase be created for each Bid-Part. This method of bid-encryption does not have the security and data-integrity related vulnerabilities which are inherent in e-tendering systems which use Public-Key of the specified officer of a Buyer organization for bid-encryption. Bid-encryption in ETS is such that the Bids cannot be decrypted before the Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE), even if there is connivance between the concerned tender-opening officers of the Buyer organization and the personnel of e-tendering service provider.

CAUTION: All bidders must fill Electronic Forms™ for each bid-part sincerely and carefully, and avoid any discrepancy between information given in the Electronic Forms™ and the corresponding Main-Bid. For transparency, the information submitted by a bidder in the Electronic Forms™ is made available to other bidders during the Online Public TOE. If it is found during the Online Public TOE that a bidder has not filled in the complete information in the Electronic Forms™, the TOE officer may make available for downloading the corresponding Main-Bid of that bidder at the risk of the bidder. If variation is noted between the information contained in the Electronic Forms™ and the ‘Main-Bid’, the contents of the Electronic Forms™ shall prevail. Alternatively, the Buyer organization reserves the right to consider the higher of the two pieces of information (eg the higher price) for the purpose of short-listing, and the lower of the two pieces of information (eg the lower price) for the purpose of payment in case that bidder is an awardee in that tender.

Typically, ‘Pass-Phrase’ of the Bid-Part to be opened during a particular Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE) is furnished online by each bidder during the TOE itself, when demanded by the concerned Tender Opening Officer.

Additionally, the bidder shall make sure that the Pass-Phrase to decrypt the relevant Bid-Part is submitted to Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. in a sealed envelope before the start date and time of the Tender Opening Event (TOE).

There is an additional protection with SSL Encryption during transit from the client-end computer of a Supplier organization to the e-tendering server/ portal.
Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)

ETS offers a unique facility for ‘Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)’. Tender Opening Officers, as well as, authorized representatives of bidders can simultaneously attend the Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE) from the comfort of their offices. Alternatively, one/two duly authorized representative(s) of bidders (i.e. Supplier organization) are requested to carry a Laptop with Wireless Internet Connectivity, if they wish to come to Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. office for the Public Online TOE.

Every legal requirement for a transparent and secure ‘Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)’, including digital counter-signing of each opened bid by the authorized TOE-officer(s) in the simultaneous online presence of the participating bidders’ representatives, has been implemented on ETS.

As soon as a Bid is decrypted with the corresponding ‘Pass-Phrase’ as submitted offline by the bidder himself (during the TOE itself), salient points of the Bids (as identified by the Buyer organization) are simultaneously made available for downloading by all participating bidders. The tedium of taking notes during a manual ‘Tender Opening Event’ is therefore replaced with this superior and convenient form of ‘Public Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)’.

ETS has a unique facility of ‘Online Comparison Chart’ which is dynamically updated as each online bid is opened. The format of the chart is based on inputs provided by the Buyer for each Bid-Part of a tender. The information in the Comparison Chart is based on the data submitted by the Bidders. A detailed Technical and/ or Financial Comparison Chart enhances Transparency. Detailed instructions are given on relevant screens.

ETS has a unique facility of a detailed report titled ‘Minutes of Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)’ covering all important activities of ‘Online Tender Opening Event (TOE)’. This is available to all participating bidders for “Viewing/ Downloading”.

There are many more facilities and features on ETS. For a particular tender, the screens viewed by a Supplier will depend upon the options selected by the concerned Buyer.
SEVEN CRITICAL DO’S AND DON’TS FOR BIDDERS

Specifically, for Supplier organizations, the following 'SEVEN KEY INSTRUCTIONS for BIDDERS' must be assiduously adhered to:

1. Obtain individual Digital Signing Certificate (DSC or DC) well in advance of your first tender submission deadline on ETS.

2. Register your organization on ETS well in advance of the important deadlines for your first tender on ETS viz ‘Date and Time of Closure of Procurement of Tender Documents’ and ‘Last Date and Time of Receipt of Bids’. Please note that even after acceptance of your registration by the Service Provider, to respond to a tender you will also require time to complete activities related to your organization, such as creation of --Marketing Authority (MA) [i.e. a department within the Supplier/ Bidder Organization responsible for responding to tenders], users for one or more such MAs, assigning roles to them, etc. It is mandatory to create at least one MA. This unique feature of creating an MA enhances security and accountability within the Supplier/ Bidder Organization.

3. Get your organization's concerned executives trained on ETS well in advance of your first tender submission deadline on ETS.

4. For responding to any particular tender, the tender (i.e. its Tender Search Code or TSC) has to be assigned to an MA. Further, an 'Official Copy of Tender Documents' should be procured/ downloaded before the expiry of Date and Time of Closure of Procurement of Tender Documents.
   
   Note: Official copy of Tender Documents is distinct from downloading 'Free Copy of Tender Documents'. Official copy of Tender Documents is the equivalent of procuring physical copy of Tender Documents with official receipt in the paper-based manual tendering system.

5. Submit your bids well in advance of tender submission deadline on ETS (There could be last minute problems due to internet timeout, breakdown, et al)

6. It is the responsibility of each bidder to remember and securely store the Pass-Phrase for each Bid-Part submitted by that bidder. In the event of a bidder forgetting the Pass-Phrase before the expiry of deadline for Bid-Submission, facility is provided to the bidder to ‘Annul Previous Submission’ from the Bid-Submission Overview page and start afresh with new Pass-Phrase(s).

7. ETS will make your bid available for opening during the Online Public Tender Opening Event (TOE) ‘ONLY IF’ your ‘Status pertaining Overall Bid-Submission’ is ‘Complete’. For your record, you can generate and save a copy of ‘Final Submission Receipt’. This receipt can be generated from 'Bid-Submission Overview Page' only if the ‘Status pertaining overall Bid-Submission’ is ‘Complete’.

NOTE:
While the first three instructions mentioned above are especially relevant to first-time users of ETS, the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh instructions are relevant at all times.