

Ministry of Trade and Industry
Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation

RFQ/51/MTISEW/MPDIT/2020
SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT FOR
THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
CLARIFICATIONS – ISSUE # 1

July 1st 2020

Question #1:

The cover of your tender document, inter alia, states: "Issued on: 28th July 2020"
This seems to be a typographical error, please confirm.

Response #1:

Yes, this is a typographical error. The date is supposed to read as it does on page 2, June 28th 2020 not July 28th 2020.

Question #2:

Page 4, item 1d, under the heading Instruction to Bidders (ITB) states:

"d. Bidders may express the price for their Services in any fully convertible currency, singly or in combination of up to three foreign currencies."

May we interpret this to mean that payments by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) will be made in currencies other than Trinidad and Tobago Dollars? For example, euros, GBP or USD? Please confirm.

Response #2:

Yes, payment will be made in the currency expressed in the tender which can be Euros, GBP or USD.

Question #3:

Can you advise if MTI is willing to sign the relevant forms to facilitate the exemption of customs duties and taxes for all items contained in this tender?

Response #3:

The successful bidder(s) can use the Letter of Award to facilitate such exemptions.

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Question #4:

Page 22, item 4, under the heading Annex 1: states:

Financial Standing — A letter from the bank must be submitted confirming that the supplier has the necessary financial resources available to cover the cost of the tender.

Would consideration be given to a letter from our manufacturers where credit facilities exist?

Response #4:

Yes, the Ministry will consider such letter from manufacturers confirming the existence of credit facilities.

Question #5:

Page 22, item 4, under the heading Annex 1: states:

"Delivery Period: Maximum six (6) weeks from issue of Letter of Award. The Ministry will reserve the right to cancel the Letter of Award should the supplier be unable to comply with the maximum delivery period."

Based on our most recent experience (June 2020) with our manufacturers and the related logistical issues experienced as a result in restrictions being placed on the movement of goods and persons, six (6) weeks for delivery may prove to be a bit of a challenge. In an effort to manage expectations in a responsible manner, we propose that this be amended to read: Delivery Period: Maximum eight (8) to ten (10) weeks from issue of Letter of Award.

Response #5:

Taking into consideration the above, the Ministry will amend the Maximum Delivery period to between six (6) to eight (8) weeks from issue of the Letter of Award.

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Question #6:

Page 8, item 6, under the heading Instruction to Bidders (ITB) states:

"6. Payment

One payment will be made for one hundred percent (100%) of the approved amount only upon completion of the following:

- i. Delivery of the equipment to the place of delivery specified in this document or otherwise directed by the Purchaser
- ii. Verification by the Purchaser that the equipment delivered meets all specifications and is in good working order
- iii. The provision of Supplier's warranty certificate for the equipment"

We humbly request that this requirement be reconsidered as it gives little to no consideration to the prevailing economic circumstances for which the entire national and worldwide economy remained at a virtual standstill for the greater part of the last four (4) months. Given that businesses across all spheres have experienced unprecedented losses as a result of the negative effects of Covid-19, we hereby propose that the payment terms for lot one (1) be varied, to include an advance in the form of a mobilisation fee in the order of a 35% deposit. This will allow for the required flexibility to resume our business relationship with our manufacturers who have also been negatively affected over the recent past

Response #6:

The points noted above have been duly considered. Regrettably, the Ministry is unable to accommodate this request at this time. Payment terms remain as per the ITB.

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Question #7:

Recommendations number 5 and 6 are based on the assumption that an award for this tender is imminent and MTI is eager to have this project commissioned in the shortest order. If, however, this is not the case and the project is intended to be executed after October 1, 2020, then another assumption may be made that economic activity may be regularised at such time and as such, may not require these amendments

Response #7:

The Ministry wishes to advise that this equipment is urgently required.

July 1st 2020