




Bids and Awards Committee

Republic of the Philippines
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PROJECT: ENGAGEMENT OF A CERTIFYING BODY FOR A THIRD PARTY AUDIT CERTIFICATION UNDER ISO 9001:2015 QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM OF FOUR (4) REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION IN THE CITIES OF BAGUIO, CEBU, ILOILO AND LEGASPI WITH AN APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT OF ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP1,625,000.00)

SECTION II. INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

A. General

1. Scope of Bid

- 1.1 The procuring entity named in the BDS invites bids for the supply and delivery of the Goods as described in Section VII. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.
- 1.2 The name, identification, and number of lots specific to this bidding are provided in the BDS. The contracting strategy and basis of evaluation of lots is described in ITB Clause 28.

2. Source of Funds

The Procuring Entity has a budget or has received funds from the Funding Source named in the BDS, and in the amount indicated in the BDS. It intends to apply part of the funds received for the Project, as defined in the BDS, to cover eligible payments under the contract.

3. Corrupt, Fraudulent, Collusive, and Coercive Practices

- 3.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the Procuring Entity as well as the bidders and suppliers shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of the contract. In pursuance of this policy, the Procuring Entity:
 - (a) defines, for purposes of this provision, the terms set forth below as follows:
 - (i) "corrupt practice" means behavior on the part of officials in the public or private sectors by which they improperly and unlawfully enrich themselves, others, or induce others to do so, by misusing the position in which they are placed, and includes the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value to influence the action of any such official in the procurement process or in contract execution; entering, on behalf of the government, into any contract or transaction manifestly and grossly disadvantageous to the same,



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whether or not the public officer profited or will profit thereby, and similar acts as provided in RA 3019.

- (ii) "fraudulent practice" means a misrepresentation of facts in order to influence a procurement process or the execution of a contract to the detriment of the Procuring Entity, and includes collusive practices among Bidders (prior to or after bid submission) designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels and to deprive the Procuring Entity of the benefits of free and open competition.
- (iii) "collusive practices" means a scheme or arrangement between two or more Bidders, with or without the knowledge of the Procuring Entity, designed to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels.
- (iv) "coercive practices" means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons, or their property to influence their participation in a procurement process, or affect the execution of a contract;
- (v) "obstructive practice" is
 - (aa) deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to an administrative proceedings or investigation or making false statements to investigators in order to materially impede an administrative proceedings or investigation of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent, coercive or collusive practice; and/or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the administrative proceedings or investigation or from pursuing such proceedings or investigation; or
 - (bb) acts intended to materially impede the exercise of the inspection and audit rights of the Procuring Entity or any foreign government/foreign or international financing institution herein.

(b) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the Bidder recommended for award has engaged in any of the practices mentioned in this Clause for purposes of competing for the contract.

3.2 Further, the Procuring Entity will seek to impose the maximum civil, administrative, and/or criminal penalties available under applicable laws on individuals and organizations deemed to be involved in any of the practices mentioned in ITB Clause 3.1 (a).



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3.3 Furthermore, the Funding Source and the Procuring Entity reserve the right to inspect and audit records and accounts of a bidder or supplier in the bidding for and performance of a contract themselves or through independent auditors as reflected in the GCC Clause 3.

4. Conflict of Interest

4.1 All Bidders found to have conflicting interests shall be disqualified to participate in the procurement at hand, without prejudice to the Imposition of appropriate administrative, civil, and criminal sanctions. A Bidder may be considered to have conflicting interests with another Bidder in any of the events described in paragraphs (a) through (c) below and a general conflict of interest in any of the circumstances set out in paragraphs (d) through (g) below:

- (a) A Bidder has controlling shareholders in common with another Bidder;
- (b) A Bidder receives or has received any direct or indirect subsidy from any other Bidder;
- (c) A Bidder has the same legal representative as that of another Bidder for purposes of this bid;
- (d) A Bidder has a relationship, directly or through third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the bid of another Bidder or influence the decisions of the Procuring Entity regarding this bidding process;
- (e) A Bidder submits more than one bid in this bidding process. However, this does not limit the participation of subcontractors in more than one bid;
- (f) A Bidder who participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the Goods and related services that are the subject of the bid; or
- (g) A Bidder who lends, or temporarily seconds, its personnel to firms or organizations which are engaged in consulting services for the preparation related to procurement for or implementation of the project, if the personnel would be involved in any capacity on the same project.

4.2 In accordance with Section 47 of the IRR of RA 9184, all Bidding Documents shall be accompanied by a sworn affidavit of the Bidder that it is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity (HoPE), members of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), members of the Technical Working Group (TWG), members of the BAC Secretariat, the head of the Project Management Office (PMO) or the end-user unit, and the project consultants, by



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consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree. On the part of the Bidder, this Clause shall apply to the following persons:

- (a) If the Bidder is an individual or a sole proprietorship, to the Bidder himself;
- (b) If the Bidder is a partnership, to all its officers and members;
- (c) If the Bidder is a corporation, to all its officers, directors, and controlling stockholders;
- (d) If the Bidder is a cooperative, to all its officers, directors, and controlling shareholders or members; and
- (e) If the Bidder is a joint venture (JV), the provisions of items (a), (b), (c), or (d) of this Clause shall correspondingly apply to each of the members of the said JV, as may be appropriate.

Relationship of the nature described above or failure to comply with this Clause will result in the automatic disqualification of a Bidder.

5. Eligible Bidders

5.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, the following persons shall be eligible to participate in this bidding:

- a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships;
- b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines;
- d. Cooperatives duly organized under the laws of the Philippines; and
- e. Persons/entities forming themselves into a Joint Venture (JV), i.e., a group of two (2) or more persons/entities that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract: Provided, however, that Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%).

5.2 Foreign bidders may be eligible to participate when any of the following circumstances exist, as specified in the BDS:

- a. When a Treaty or International or Executive Agreement as provided in Section 4 of the RA 9184 and its IRR allow foreign bidders to participate;
- b. Citizens, corporations, or associations of a country, included in the list issued by the GPPB, the laws or regulations of which grant reciprocal rights or privileges to citizens, corporations, or associations of the Philippines;




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- c. When the Goods sought to be procured are not available from local suppliers; or
- d. When there is a need to prevent situations that defeat competition or restrain trade.

5.3 Government owned or –controlled corporations (GOCCs) may be eligible to participate only if they can establish that they (a) are legally and financially autonomous, (b) operate under commercial law, and (c) are not attached agencies of the Procuring Entity.

5.4 Unless otherwise provided in the BDS, the Bidder must have completed a Single Largest Completed Contract (SLCC) similar to the Project and the value of which, adjusted, if necessary, by the Bidder to current prices using the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) consumer price index, must be at least equivalent to a percentage of the ABC stated in the BDS.

For this purpose, contracts similar to the Project shall be those described in the BDS, and completed within the relevant period stated in the Invitation to Bid and ITB Clause 12.1(a) (ii).

5.5 The Bidder must submit a computation of its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC), which must be at least equal to the ABC to be bid, calculated as follows:

NFCC = [(Current assets minus current liabilities) (15)] minus the value of all outstanding or uncompleted portions of the projects under ongoing contracts, including awarded contracts yet to be started coinciding with the contract to be bid.

The values of the domestic bidder's current assets and current liabilities shall be based on the latest Audited Financial Statements submitted to the BIR.

For purposes of computing the foreign bidders' NFCC, the value of the current assets and current liabilities shall be based on their audited financial statement prepared in accordance with international financial reporting standards.

If the prospective bidder opts to submit a committed Line of Credit, it must be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the ABC to be bid. If issued by a foreign universal or commercial bank, it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a local universal or commercial bank.

6. Bidder's Responsibilities

6.1 The Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall submit a sworn statement in the form prescribed Section VIII. Bidding Forms as required in ITB Clause 12.1(b)(iii).

6.2 The Bidder is responsible for the following:



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- a. Having taken steps to carefully examine all of the Bidding Documents;
- b. Having acknowledged all conditions, local or otherwise, affecting the implementation of the contract;
- c. Having made an estimate of the facilities available and needed for the contract to be bid, if any; and
- d. Having complied with its responsibility to Inquire or secure Supplemental/Bid Bulletin(s) as provided under ITB Clause 10.4.
- e. Ensuring that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the GOP or any of its agencies, offices, corporations, or LGUs, including foreign government/foreign or international financing institution whose blacklisting rules have been recognized by the GPPB;
- f. Ensuring that each of the documents submitted in satisfaction of the bidding requirements is an authentic copy of the original, complete, and all statements and information provided therein are true and correct;
- g. Authorizing the HoPE or its duly authorized representative/s to verify all the documents submitted;
- h. Ensuring that the signatory is the duly authorized representative of the Bidder, and granted full power and authority to do, execute and perform any and all acts necessary and/or to represent the Bidder in the bidding, with the duly notarized Secretary's Certificate attesting to such fact, if the Bidder is a corporation, partnership, cooperative, or joint venture;
- i. Complying with the disclosure provision under Section 47 of RA 9184 in relation to other provisions of RA 3019;
- j. Complying with existing labor laws and standards, in the case of procurement of services; Moreover, bidder undertakes to:
 - i. Ensure the entitlement of workers to wages, hours of work, safety and health and other prevailing conditions of work as established by national laws, rules and regulations; or collective bargaining agreement; or arbitration award, if and when applicable.
In case there is a finding by the Procuring Entity or the DOLE of underpayment or non-payment of workers' wage and wage-related benefits, bidder agrees that the performance security or portion of the contract amount shall be withheld in favor of the complaining workers pursuant to appropriate provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 without prejudice to the institution of appropriate actions under the Labor Code, as amended, and other social legislations.
 - ii. Comply with occupational safety and health standards and to correct deficiencies, if any.




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In case of imminent danger, injury or death of the worker, bidder undertakes to suspend contract implementation pending clearance to proceed from the DOLE Regional Office and to comply with Work Stoppage Order; and

- iii. Inform the workers of their conditions of work, labor clauses under the contract specifying wages, hours of work and other benefits under prevailing national laws, rules and regulations; or collective bargaining agreement; or arbitration award, if and when applicable, through posting in two (2) conspicuous places in the establishment's premises; and

k. Ensuring that it did not give or pay, directly or indirectly, any commission, amount, fee, or any form of consideration, pecuniary or otherwise, to any person or official, personnel or representative of the government in relation to any procurement project or activity.

Failure to observe any of the above responsibilities shall be at the risk of the Bidder concerned.

6.3 The Bidder is expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, and specifications in the Bidding Documents.

6.4 It shall be the sole responsibility of the Bidder to determine and to satisfy itself by such means as it considers necessary or desirable as to all matters pertaining to the contract to be bid, including: (a) the location and the nature of this Project; (b) climatic conditions; (c) transportation facilities; and (d) other factors that may affect the cost, duration, and execution or implementation of this Project.

6.5 The Procuring Entity shall not assume any responsibility regarding erroneous interpretations or conclusions by the prospective or eligible bidder out of the data furnished by the procuring entity. However, the Procuring Entity shall ensure that all information in the Bidding Documents, including bid/supplemental bid bulletin/s issued, are correct and consistent.

6.6 Before submitting their bids, the Bidder is deemed to have become familiar with all existing laws, decrees, ordinances, acts and regulations of the Philippines which may affect this Project in any way.

6.7 The Bidder shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of his bid, and the Procuring Entity will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

6.8 The Bidder should note that the Procuring Entity will accept bids only from those that have paid the nonrefundable fee for the Bidding Documents at the office indicated in the Invitation to Bid.



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7. Origin of Goods

Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, there is no restriction on the origin of goods other than those prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, subject to ITB Clause 27.1.

8. Subcontracts

8.1 Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, the Bidder may subcontract portions of the Goods to an extent as may be approved by the Procuring Entity and stated in the BDS. However, subcontracting of any portion shall not relieve the Bidder from any liability or obligation that may arise from the contract for this Project.

8.2 Subcontractors must submit the documentary requirements under ITB Clause 12 and comply with the eligibility criteria specified in the BDS. In the event that any subcontractor is found by the Procuring Entity to be ineligible, the subcontracting of such portion of the Goods shall be disallowed.

8.3 The Bidder may identify the subcontractor to whom a portion of the Goods will be subcontracted at any of the bidding process or during contract implementation. If the Bidder opts to disclose the name of the subcontractor during bid submission, the Bidder shall include the required documents as part of the technical components of its bid.

B. Contents of Bidding Documents

9. Pre-Bid Conference

9.1 (a) If so specified in the BDS, a pre-bid conference shall be held at the venue and on the date indicated therein, to clarify and address the Bidders' questions on the technical and financial components of this Project.

(b) The pre-bid conference shall be held at least twelve (12) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids, but not earlier than seven (7) calendar days from the posting of the Invitation to bid/bidding documents in the PhilGEPS website. If the Procuring Entity determines that, by reason of the method, nature, or complexity of the contract to be bid or when international participation will be more advantageous to the GoP, a longer period for the preparation of bids is necessary, the pre-bid conference shall be held at least thirty (30) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids, as specified in the BDS.


9.2 Bidders are encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference to ensure that they fully understand the Procuring Entity's requirements. Non-attendance of the Bidder will no way prejudice its bid; however, the Bidder is expected to know the changes and/or amendments to the Bidding Documents as




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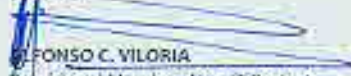

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recorded in the minutes of the pre-bid conference and the Supplemental/Bid Bulletin. The minutes of the pre-bid conference shall be recorded and prepared not later than five (5) calendar days after the pre-bid conference. The minutes shall be made available to prospective bidders not later than five (5) days upon written request.

- 9.3 Decisions of the BAC amending any provision of the bidding documents shall be issued in writing through a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids.

10. Clarification and Amendment of Bidding Documents

- 10.1 Prospective bidders may request for clarification on and/or interpretation of any part of the Bidding Documents. Such a request must be in writing and submitted to the Procuring Entity at the address indicated in the BDS at least ten (10) calendar days before the deadline set for the submission and receipt of Bids.
- 10.2 The BAC shall respond to the said request by issuing a Supplemental/Bid Bulletin, to be made available to all those who have properly secured the Bidding Documents, at least seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of Bids.
- 10.3 Supplemental/Bid Bulletins may also be issued upon the Procuring Entity's initiative for purposes of clarifying or modifying any provision of the Bidding Documents not later than seven (7) calendar days before the deadline for the submission and receipt of Bids. Any modification to the Bidding Documents shall be identified as an amendment.
- 10.4 Any Supplemental/Bid Bulletin issued by the BAC shall also be posted in the PhilGEPS, the website of the Procuring Entity concerned, if available, and at any conspicuous place within the premises of the Procuring Entity. It shall be the responsibility of all those who have properly secured the Bidding Documents to inquire and secure Supplemental/Bid Bulletins that may be issued by the BAC. However, Bidders who have submitted bids before the issuance of the Supplemental/Bid Bulletin must be informed and allowed to modify or withdraw their bids in accordance with ITB Clause 23.

C. Preparation of Bids

11. Language of Bids

The eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents to be submitted to the BAC must be in English. If the eligibility requirements or statements, the bids, and all other documents submitted to the BAC are in foreign language other than



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English, it must be accompanied by a translation of the documents in English. The documents shall be translated by the relevant foreign government agency, the foreign government agency authorized to translate documents, or a registered translator in the foreign bidder's country; and shall be authenticated by the appropriate Philippine foreign service establishment/post or the equivalent office having jurisdiction over the foreign bidder's affairs in the Philippines. The English translation shall govern, for purposes of interpretation of the bid.

12. Documents Comprising the Bid: Eligibility and Technical Components

12.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, the first envelope shall contain the following eligibility and technical documents:

(a) Eligibility Documents –

Class "A" Documents:

- i. PhilGEPS Certificate of Registration and Membership in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR, except for foreign bidders participating in the procurement by a Philippine Foreign Service Office or Post, which shall submit their eligibility documents under Section 23.1 of the IRR, provided, that the winning bidder shall register with the PhilGEPS in accordance with section 37.1.4 of the IRR.
- ii. Statement of all its ongoing government and private contracts, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any, whether similar or not similar in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid; and

Statement identifying the bidder's SLCC similar to the contract to be bid, in accordance with ITB Clause 5.4 within the relevant period as provided in the BDS.

The two statements required shall indicate for each contract the following:

- (ii.1) name of the contract;
- (ii.2) date of the contract;
- (ii.3) contract duration;
- (ii.4) owner's name and address;
- (ii.5) kinds of Goods;
- (ii.6) For Statement of Ongoing Contracts – amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;
- (ii.7) For Statement of SLCC - amount of completed contracts, adjusted by the Bidder to current prices using PSA's consumer price index, if necessary for the purpose of meeting the SLCC requirement;
- (ii.8) date of delivery; and




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(ii.9) end user's acceptance or official receipt(s) or sales invoice issued for the contract, if completed, which shall be attached to the statements.

iii. NFCC computation in accordance with ITB Clause 5.5 or a committed Line of Credit from a universal or commercial bank.

Class "B" Document:

iv. If applicable, the Joint Venture Agreement (JVA), in case the joint venture is already in existence, or duly notarized statements from all the potential joint venture partners stating in accordance with Section 23.1(b) of the IRR.

(b) Technical Documents -

(i) Bid security in accordance with ITB Clause 18. If the Bidder opts to submit the bid security in the form of:

(i.1) a bank draft/guarantee or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a foreign bank, it shall be accompanied by a confirmation from a Universal or Commercial Bank; or

(i.2) a surety bond, it shall be accompanied by a certification by the Insurance Commission that the surety or insurance company is authorized to issue such instruments;

(ii) Conformity with technical specifications, as enumerated and specified in Sections VI and VII of the Bidding Documents; and

(iii) Sworn Statement in accordance with Section 25.3 of the IRR of RA 9184 and using the form prescribed in Section VIII Bidding Forms.

(iv) For foreign bidders claiming eligibility by reason of their country's extension of reciprocal rights to Filipinos, a certification from the relevant government office of their country stating that Filipinos are allowed to participate in their government procurement activities for the same item or product.

13. Documents Comprising the Bid: Financial Component

13.1 Unless otherwise stated in the BDS, the financial component of the bid shall contain the following:

a. Financial Bid Form, which includes bid prices and the bill of quantities and the applicable Price Schedules, in accordance with ITB Clauses 15.1 and 15.4;



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- b. If the Bidder claims preference as a Domestic Bidder, a certification from the DTI issued in accordance with ITB Clause 27, unless otherwise provided in the BDS; and
- c. Any other document related to the financial component of the bid as stated in the BDS.

13.2 (a) Unless otherwise stated in the BDS, all bids that exceed the ABC shall not be accepted.

(b) Unless otherwise indicated in the BDS, for foreign-funded procurement, a ceiling may be applied to bid prices provided the following conditions are met:

- (i) Bidding documents are obtainable free of charge on a freely accessible website. If payment of Bidding Documents is required by the procuring entity, payment could be made upon the submission of bids.
- (ii) The procuring entity has procedures in place to ensure that the ABC is based on recent estimates made by the responsible unit of the procuring entity and that the estimates reflect the quality, supervision and risk and inflationary factors, as well as prevailing market prices, associated with the types of works or goods to be procured.
- (iii) The procuring entity has trained cost estimators on estimating prices and analyzing bid variances
- (iv) The procuring entity has established a system to monitor and report bid prices relative to ABC and engineer's/procuring entity's estimate.
- (v) The procuring entity has established a monitoring and evaluation system for contract implementation to provide a feedback on actual total costs of goods and works.

14. Alternative Bids

14.1 Alternative Bids shall be rejected. For this purpose, alternative bid is an offer made by a Bidder in addition or as a substitute to its original bid which may be included as part of its original bid or submitted separately therewith for purposes of bidding. A bid with options is considered an alternative bid regardless of whether said bid proposal is contained in a single envelope or submitted in two (2) or more separate bid envelopes.

14.2 Each Bidder shall submit only one Bid, either individually or as a partner in a JV. A Bidder who submits or participates in more than one bid (other than as a subcontractor if a subcontractor is permitted to participate in more than one bid) will cause all the proposals with the Bidder's participation to be disqualified. This shall be without prejudice to any applicable criminal, civil and




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administrative penalties that may be imposed upon the persons and entities concerned.

15. Bid Prices

- 15.1 The Bidder shall complete the appropriate Schedule of Prices included herein, stating the unit prices, total price per item, the total amount and the expected countries of origin of the Goods to be supplied under this Project.
- 15.2 The Bidder shall fill in rates and prices for all items of the Goods described in the Schedule of Prices. Bids not addressing or providing all of the required items in the Bidding Documents including, where applicable, Schedule of Prices, shall be considered non-responsive and, thus, automatically disqualified. In this regard, where a required item is provided, but no price is indicated, the same shall be considered as non-responsive, but specifying a zero (0) or a dash (-) for the said item would mean that it is being offered for free to the Government, except those required by law or regulations to be accomplished.
- 15.3 The terms Ex Works (EXW), Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF), Cost and Insurance Paid to (CIP), Delivered Duty Paid (DDP), and other trade terms used to describe the obligations of the parties, shall be governed by the rules prescribed in the current edition of the International Commercial Terms (INCOTERMS) published by the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.
- 15.4 Prices indicated on the Price Schedule shall be entered separately in the following manner:
 - a. For Goods offered from within the Procuring Entity's country:
 - (i) The price of the Goods quoted EXW (ex works, ex factory, ex warehouse, ex showroom, or off-the-shelf, as applicable);
 - (ii) The cost of all customs duties and sales and other taxes already paid or payable;
 - (iii) The cost of transportation, insurance, and other costs incidental to delivery of the Goods to their final destination; and
 - (iv) The prices of other (incidental) services, if any, listed in the BDS.
 - b. For Goods offered from abroad:
 - (i) Unless otherwise stated in the BDS, the price of the Goods shall be quoted DDP with the place of destination in the Philippines as specified in the BDS. In quoting the price, the Bidder shall be free to use transportation through carriers registered in any



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eligible country. Similarly, the Bidder may obtain insurance services from any eligible source country.

(ii) The price of other (incidental) services, if any, listed in the BDS.

c. For Services, based on the form which may be prescribed by the Procuring Entity, in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations

15.5 Prices quoted by the Bidder shall be fixed during the Bidder's performance of the contract and not subject to variation or price escalation on any account. A bid submitted with an adjustable price quotation shall be treated as non-responsive and shall be rejected, pursuant to ITB Clause 24.

All bid prices for the given scope of work in the contract as awarded shall be considered as fixed prices, and therefore not subject to price escalation during contract implementation, except under extraordinary circumstances. Upon the recommendation of the Procuring Entity, price escalation may be allowed in extraordinary circumstances as may be determined by the National Economic and Development Authority in accordance with the Civil Code of the Philippines, and upon approval by the GPPB. Nevertheless, in cases where the cost of the awarded contract is affected by any applicable new laws, ordinances, regulations, or other acts of the GOP, promulgated after the date of bid opening, a contract price adjustment shall be made or appropriate relief shall be applied on a no loss-no gain basis.

16. Bid Currencies

16.1 Prices shall be quoted in the following currencies:

- a. For Goods that the Bidder will supply from within the Philippines, the prices shall be quoted in Philippine Pesos.
- b. For Goods that the Bidder will supply from outside the Philippines, the prices may be quoted in the currency(ies) stated in the BDS. However, for purposes of bid evaluation, bids denominated in foreign currencies shall be converted to Philippine currency based on the exchange rate as published in the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas* (BSP) reference rate bulletin on the day of the bid opening.

16.2 If so allowed in accordance with ITB Clause 16.1, the Procuring Entity for purposes of bid evaluation and comparing the bid prices will convert the amounts in various currencies in which the bid price is expressed to Philippine Pesos at the foregoing exchange rates.

16.3. Unless otherwise specified in the BDS, payment of the contract price shall be made in Philippine Pesos.



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17. Bid Validity

- 17.1. Bids shall remain valid for the period specified in the BDS which shall not exceed one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids.
- 17.2. In exceptional circumstances, prior to the expiration of the bid validity period, the Procuring Entity may request Bidders to extend the period of validity of their bids. The request and the responses shall be made in writing. The bid security described in ITB Clause 18 should also be extended corresponding to the extension of the bid validity period at the least. A Bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting its bid security, but his bid shall no longer be considered for further evaluation and award. A Bidder granting the request shall not be required or permitted to modify its bid.

18. Bid Security

- 18.1. The Bidder shall submit a Bid Securing Declaration or any form of Bid Security in the amount stated in the BDS, which shall be not less than the percentage of the ABC in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Bid Security	Amount of Bid Security (Not less than the Percentage of the ABC)
(a) Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank. <i>For biddings conducted by LGUs, the cashier's/manager's check may be issued by other banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i>	Two percent (2%)
(b) Bank draft/guarantee or Irrevocable letter of credit issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank; Provided, however, That it shall be confirmed or authenticated by a Universal or Commercial Bank, if issued by a foreign bank. <i>For biddings conducted by the LGUs, bank draft/guarantee, or irrevocable letter of credit may be issued by the banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i>	
(c) Surety bond callable upon demand issued by a surety or insurance company duly certified by the Insurance Commission as authorized to issue such security.	Five percent (5%)

The Bid Securing Declaration mentioned above is an undertaking which states, among others, that the Bidder shall enter into contract with the procuring entity and furnish the performance security required under ITB Clause 33.2, within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award, and commits to pay the corresponding amount as fine, and be

