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**LB-Beirut: ENPI — quality programme phase III: further strengthening
of quality management, capabilities, and infrastructure in Lebanon
2011/S 229-370613**

Location: Mediterranean partners — Lebanon

Service procurement notice

Common procurement vocabulary (CPV):

Main object:

75110000 General public services

Additional object(s):

75111100 Executive services

75130000 Supporting services for the government

72225000 System quality assurance assessment and review services

71731000 Industrial quality control services

1. **Publication reference:**

EuropeAid/132048/D/SER/LB.

Internet address(es):

General address of the contracting authority: <http://www.paolebanon.org>

2. **Procedure:**

Restricted.

3. **Programme:**

ENPI.

4. **Financing:**

Financing agreement.

5. **Contracting authority:**

The Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Lebanon (PCM), Beirut, LEBANON.

6. **Nature of contract:**

Fee-based.

7. **Contract description:**

The overall objective of the project is to increase the competitiveness of the Lebanese private sector by facilitating conformity of Lebanese products and services with international standards.

The purpose of the project is to increase conformity of Lebanese products with technical quality requirements and international standards for health, safety and environment.

Results to be achieved by the consultant:

1. existence of a well developed and consolidated Lebanese quality legislative, regulatory and policy framework infrastructure;
2. existence of a comprehensive and efficient quality institutional infrastructure:
 - (a) the national quality institutional infrastructure will be reinforced;
 - (b) Qualeb's role as the Lebanese quality management focal point will be strengthened, as well as its market surveillance functions;

(c) capacity will be built within the Lebanese quality-related institutions, laboratories and bodies responsible for conformity assessment, standardisation, accreditation, metrology, testing, market surveillance, food safety and consumer protection;

3. a national awareness exists in quality issues.

8. **Numbers and titles of lots:**

The contract is divided into lots: No, 1 lot only.

9. **Budget:**

Maximum budget: 2 500 000 EUR.

10. **Scope for additional services:**

The contracting authority may, at its own discretion, extend the project in duration and/or scope, subject to the availability of funding, up to a maximum not exceeding the length and value of the initial contract. Any extension of the contract would be subject to satisfactory performance by the contractor.

Conditions of participation

11. **Eligibility:**

Participation is open to all legal persons (participating either individually or in a grouping (consortium) of candidates) which are established in a Member State of the European Union or in a country or territory of the regions covered and/or authorised by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed (see also item 29 below). Participation is also open to international organisations. The participation of natural persons is governed by the specific instruments applicable to the programme under which the contract is financed.

12. **Candidature:**

All eligible natural and legal persons (as per item 11 above) or groupings of such persons (consortia) may apply.

A consortium may be a permanent, legally-established grouping or a grouping which has been constituted informally for a specific tender procedure. All members of a consortium (i.e., the leader and all other members) are jointly and severally liable to the contracting authority.

The participation of an ineligible natural or legal person (as per item 11) will result in the automatic exclusion of that person. In particular, if that ineligible person belongs to a consortium, the whole consortium will be excluded.

13. **Number of applications:**

No more than 1 application can be submitted by a natural or legal person whatever the form of participation (as an individual legal entity or as leader or member of a consortium submitting an application). In the event that a natural or legal person submits more than 1 application, all applications in which that person has participated will be excluded.

14. **Shortlist alliances prohibited:**

Any tenders received from tenderers having a different composition than the ones on the application forms will be excluded from this restricted tender procedure, unless prior approval from the contracting authority has been obtained — see PRAG 2.4.3. Shortlisted candidates may not form alliances or subcontract to each other for the contract in question.

15. **Grounds for exclusion:**

As part of the application form, candidates must submit a signed declaration, included in the standard application form, to the effect that they are not in any of the exclusion situations listed in Section 2.3.3 of the 'Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions'.

16. **Subcontracting:**

Subcontracting is not allowed.

17. **Number of candidates to be shortlisted:**

On the basis of the applications received, at least 4 and at most 8 candidates will be invited to submit detailed tenders for this contract. If the number of eligible candidates meeting the selection criteria is less than the minimum of 4, the contracting authority may invite the candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.

Provisional timetable

18. **Provisional date of invitation to tender:**

2.2.2012.

19. **Provisional commencement date of the contract:**

2.7.2012.

20. **Initial period of implementation of tasks:**

Duration in months: 30.

Selection and award criteria

21. **Selection criteria:**

Same criteria for legal and natural person.

The following selection criteria will be applied to candidates. In the case of applications submitted by a consortium, these selection criteria will be applied to the consortium as a whole:

1) Economic and financial capacity of candidate:

In the case of the applicant being a public body equivalent information should be provided:

1. the average annual turnover of the tenderer for the last 3 financial years for which accounts have been closed must exceed 3 000 000 EUR;

2. the averages of cash and cash equivalents for the last 3 financial years for which accounts have been closed at the beginning and end of year are positive.

2) Professional capacity of candidate:

1. at least 10 permanent staff are currently working and were working during the past 2 years for the candidate in fields related to this contract (technical regulations, institutional infrastructure for quality, accreditation, food safety, national quality awards and/or excellence, public sector quality management);

2. at least 20 % of staff working for the candidate in 2011 in fields related to this contract are permanent.

3) Technical capacity of candidate:

1. the candidate has completed successfully at least 3 technical assistance projects funded by an international donor with a budget of at least 1 000 000 EUR covering different aspects of quality infrastructure development during the last 3 years as from the submission deadline in one of the ENPI partner countries, EU candidate countries, potential candidate countries, and the 27 EU Member States;

2. at least one of the abovementioned projects has been successfully completed during the last 3 years as from the submission deadline in one of the ENPI partner countries;

3. the candidate must have the right to operate in Lebanon in line with Lebanese legislation.

An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. Some examples of when it may not be considered appropriate by the contracting authority are when the tenderers rely in majority on the capacities of other entities or when they rely on key criteria. If the candidate relies on other entities it must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal. Such entities, for instance the parent company of the economic operator, must respect the same rules of eligibility and notably that of nationality, as the economic operator. Furthermore, the data for this third entity

for the relevant selection criterion should be included in the tender in a separate document. Proof of the capacity will also have to be furnished when requested by the contracting authority.

If more than 8 eligible candidates meet the above selection criteria, the relative strengths and weaknesses of the applications of these candidates must be re-examined to identify the 8 best applications for the tender procedure. The only factors which will be taken into consideration during this re-examination are:

1. the number of contracts compliant with the requirements of item 21.3.2;
2. the cumulative value of the contracts successfully completed by the candidate compliant with the requirements of item 21.3.1.

The 2 above factors will be applied in the order of precedence; i.e. all eligible candidates will first be assessed against factor (1) and ranked accordingly. Factor (2) will only be applied if some candidates are ranked equally for factor (1) and will only concern these candidates.

22. **Award criteria:**

Best value for money.

Application

23. **Deadline for receipt of applications:**

29.12.2011 (12:00), local time.

Any application received after this deadline will not be considered.

24. **Application format and details to be provided:**

Applications must be submitted using the standard application form, the format and instructions of which must be strictly observed. The application form is available at the following Internet address: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/procedures/implementation/services/index_en.htm

Any additional documentation (brochure, letter, etc.) sent with an application will not be taken into consideration.

25. **How applications may be submitted:**

Applications must be submitted exclusively to the contracting authority in the following language: English — either by recorded delivery (official postal service) to:

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Grand Serail, Riad El-Solh, Beirut, LEBANON,

— or hand delivered (including courier services) directly to the contracting authority in return for a signed and dated receipt to:

For the attention of: Mr Mohamad Chreif, Chief Procurement Officer, Project Administration Office. Tel. +961 1971432. E-mail: mchreif@pcm.gov.lb

Opening hours: 9:00–16:00.

As in abovementioned address.

The contract title and the publication reference (see item 1 above) must be clearly marked on the envelope containing the application and must always be mentioned in all subsequent correspondence with the contracting authority.

Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered.

26. **Alteration or withdrawal of applications:**

Candidates may alter or withdraw their applications by written notification prior to the deadline for submission of applications.

No applications may be altered after this deadline.

Any such notification of alteration or withdrawal shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with item 25.

The outer envelope (and the relevant inner envelope if used) must be marked 'Alteration' or 'Withdrawal' as appropriate.

27. **Operational language:**
All written communications for this tender procedure and contract must be in English.
28. **Date of publication of contract forecast notice:**
11.10.2011.
Notice number in OJ: [2011/S 195-316855](#).
29. **Legal basis:**
European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the EP and of the Council — OJ L 310/1 of 9.11.2006).
30. **Additional information:**
Not applicable.
Please note that the awarding of the contract is subject to the condition of the prior conclusion of a financing agreement, which does not modify the elements of the procurement procedure (this will be the case, for instance, if the budgetary envelope initially foreseen is different or if the time-frame, the nature or the condition of the implementation are altered).
If the precedent condition is not met, the contracting authority will either abandon the procurement or cancel the award procedure without the candidates' or tenderers' being entitled to claim any compensation.
31. **Date of dispatch of this notice:**
16.11.2011.