

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
REQUEST FOR QUOTATION N. 19H08020Q0020
DEDICATED INTERNET SERVICES – TEGUCIGALPA & SAN PEDRO SULA
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS PRIOR PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE

Questions and Answers Prior the Pre-Proposal Conference:

- 1. Provide list of items, schedule of requirements, scope of work, terms of reference, bill of materials required.**
Answer = All of the requested above are enclosed in our solicitation document RFQ 19H08020Q0020. Please find the document listed in our US Mission’s solicitation website:
<https://hn.usembassy.gov/embassy/tegucigalpa/solicitations/>
- 2. Provide copy of tender document through email**
Answer = Although the US Mission provides a digital copy of the document to those Prospective Contractors who requests it, it is highly recommended that all the interested parties get a digital copy from the US Mission’s solicitation website:
<https://hn.usembassy.gov/embassy/tegucigalpa/solicitations/>
- 3. Confirm name of countries that will be eligible to participate in this tender.**
Answer = Per FAR 52.225-13 – Restriction on Certain Foreign Purchases (Page # 37 of RFQ 19H08020Q0020), we kindly invite our prospective offerors to review the lists of entities and individuals subject to economic sanctions that are included in OFAC’s list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons at <http://www.treas.gov/offices/enforcement/ofac/sdn>. Please, consider DOSAR 652.242-73 – Authorization and Performance (Aug 1999), Page # 45 of RFQ 19H08020Q0020
- 4. Provide information about the tendering procedures and guidelines.**
Answer = Cover Page, Section 3 – Solicitation Provisions (Pages # 47-48) and Section 4 (Page # 50) of the solicitation document RFQ 19H08020Q0020 enclosed detailed information about the guidelines to present an offer and requirements to be technically evaluated.
- 5. What is the estimated budget for this purchase?**
Answer = Although the US Mission in Tegucigalpa, Honduras has performed a Price Analysis for this solicitation document, it has been prepared with the purpose to ensure that the final agreed-to price is fair and reasonable.
Per Cookbook, Chapter 3 – Pre-Solicitation Documents, Page # 28 the US Mission in Honduras opts to conceal this information for the purpose stated above.
- 6. Is there a possibility to extend the date to submit the offer?**
Answer = Yes, if this request is presented during the Pre-Proposal Conference or by other means, it will be evaluated by the Contracting Officer who will determine if it is convenient for the solicitation process.
- 7. Are there any Addendum or Pre-Bid Meeting Minutes?**
Answer = Yes, it has been shared with those prospective contractors who followed the instructions enclosed in the cover page for RFQ 19H08020Q0020.

- 8. Are all the points of connection in Tegucigalpa located inside the US Embassy Building?**
Answer = No, all the addresses have been sent to the prospective contractors who sent an email to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference. If any prospective contractor is interested in getting this list of addresses, please, send an email stating so to proctgu@state.gov before the date to submit an offer.
- 9. For the points of connection located inside the US Embassy Building, will the distribution inside the building be carried out by ISP or will a hub be provided?**
Answer = Distribution inside the US Building must be carried out by the ISP under the guidance of our IT Section.
- 10. For relocations, will these be inside the same building or to a different building?**
Answer = Please offer a standard price that is fair and reasonable for both scenarios.
- 11. For Item 13, please specify the use of Port 500.**
Answer = The purpose of each technical requirement may be discussed directly with the ISP that is awarded with this contract.
- 12. For Item 14, please confirm if the end user needs to configure the DNS of the ISP.**
Answer = This will be discussed directly with the ISP that is awarded with this contract.
- 13. For Item 16, please provide a date and time to carry out a site a site survey.**
Answer = Current access to US Owned Property is restricted following the measures implemented by the Government of Honduras.
- 14. For Item 16, can Meraki be offered instead of Ubiquiti?**
Answer = Ubiquiti or similar may be offered.
- 15. For Item 16, can the prospective contractors offer for a switch that does not support PoE and use power injector to enable the Aps?**
Answer = Technical requirements must be provided as requested unless an Amendment is issued to modify that specific requirement.

Questions and Answers During the Pre-Proposal Conference

- 16. The RFQ on its Page # 25 - Service Support and Contingencies, might represent a contradiction between two requirements "... ISP must warrant service support 7x24x365." and the other "Expected service availability and reliability must be at a minimum 99.97%". Please confirm if these are contradictory or if these sentences refer to two different pillars of the service?**
Answer = One requirement refers to "service support" and the other to "availability and reliability of the service", two different and complementary pillars. The requirements are that the service support must be available 7 days per week, 24 hours per day and 365 days per year. The US Government expect that the services are available and reliable up 99.97% of the time requested.
- 17. Regarding the points of connection inside the US Building, what method of connection will be requested for all of the 8 points of connection:**

- **Option A = Eight (8) independent fiber optic lines to be distributed in eight (8) different offices inside the building?**
- **Option B = Eight (8) independent fiber optic lines to be available in one / the same data center?**
- **Option C = One (1) fiber optic line connected to VLANs to separate into eight (8) different links inside the US Building?**

Answer = Each one of these connections must be independent one from the other and they should all come to the demark location (at the Phone Server Room 2nd floor). Technically speaking they can come individually to the demark area (which will be Option B), but they can also come into a bulk-fiber cable and be distributed from the demark location. Bulk fiber cables come in different sizes. Sometimes there are 8 pair cables, 16 pair cables, 24 pair cables or even more. Our suggestion will be a one bulk fiber cable containing 16 pairs, but again this is only a suggestion. We prefer to avoid multiple entry locations and to use the embassy demark located as I said at the PBX server room in 2nd floor. There are times when other agencies have point of entries outside the demark location. If that is the case for connections that do not belong the State, those point of entries can still be used, but all State connections must use the demark location.

18. Is there any restriction to use certain equipment, e.g., Huawei? Could you please share your reference / sources?

Answer = Yes, there are restrictions for equipment not authorized by the Department. Amendment 0004 issued on August 20, 2020 includes details about this.