



Agence MCA-Morocco

NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT

Development of the Arabic version of the TAO platform (Computer Aided Testing) for the award of the National Program for the Assessment of Prior Learning (PNEA)

On November 30, 2015, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco concluded a second cooperation program (Compact II) with the United States Government, represented by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), with the objective to improve the quality of human capital and land productivity.

The budget allocated by MCC to Compact II, which came into effect on June 30, 2017, amounts to 450 million dollars, to which is added a contribution of the Moroccan Government of a value equivalent to at least 15% of the American contribution. The global budget will finance, over a period of five years, two projects, namely "Education and Training for Employability" and "Land Productivity", the implementation of which has been entrusted to the Millennium Challenge Account - Morocco (Agence MCA-Morocco).

MCA-Morocco hereby gives notice of their intent to award a contract to International Open Assessment Technologies S.A., address 40 rue Parc d'activité Capellen, localit  Capellen code postal 8308, Luxembourg, for the Development of the Arabic version of the TAO platform (Computer Aided Testing) for the award of the National Program for the Assessment of Prior Learning (PNEA) on a sole source basis referring to the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines (PPG) procedures. The Sole Source Selection without competition may be an appropriate method under the circumstances set forth in the clauses P1.B.3.14, P1.B.3.15, P1.B.3.16, P1.B.3.17, P1.B.3.18 et P1.B.3.19 (see Annex).

After consultation with its partners, MCA-Morocco has judged that only "Open Assessment Technologies S.A." has the knowledge and experience required to carry out the mission in question, for the following reasons: No other entity or company would accomplish the mission according to the requirements of MCA-Morocco and its partners, for the following reasons:

1. The company ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY S.A, which created the online TAO platform, has exclusive rights to use it, and there can be no modification or addition of modules without the prior written consent of said company. The development of an Arabic version of the platform by another company has two major drawbacks:
 - The risks of technical malfunctions linked to the possible incompatibility of the version developed with the TAO platform, and therefore the need to resort repeatedly to the company OPEN ASSESSMENT TECHNOLOGY S.A for the necessary adjustments. The costs of such a service will be difficult to predict and will have to be added to the initial development cost;
 - Prior to the development of the Arabic version, it will be necessary to purchase the rights of use and modification from the holding company. This would constitute a considerable additional cost for the project;
2. The company OAT is responsible for carrying out surveys similar to PNEA studies, in particular the CEDRE program in France;
3. The company OAT provided training for the PNEA team in the use of the English version of the PNEA platform and, therefore, has knowledge of the PNEA system.

This is not a request for competitive bids; however, MCA-Morocco will consider responses from all responsible firms received by **May 21st 2020**. Responses must be supported with clear and convincing evidence to clearly be able to provide the services outlined in this notice in the address : procurement@mcamorocco.ma

Any responses received will only be considered for the purpose of determining whether to conduct a competitive procurement in lieu of the sole source contract described in this notice, and such determination shall be made at the sole discretion of MCA-morocco.

Annex:



P1.B.3.14 Sole Source Selection (SSS) of consultants does not provide the benefits of competition with regard to quality and cost, lacks transparency in selection, and could encourage unacceptable practices. Therefore, SSS shall be used only in exceptional cases. The justification for SSS shall be examined in the context of the overall interests of the MCA Entity and implementation of the Compact and the responsibility of MCC to ensure economy and efficiency and provide equal opportunity to all qualified consultants.

P1.B.3.15 Sole Source Selection may be appropriate only if it presents a clear advantage over competition (a) for tasks that represent a natural continuation of previous work carried out by the firm or individual (see paragraph P1.B.3.16), (b) in emergency cases, such as in response to disasters and for consulting services required during the period of time immediately following the emergency, or (c) when only one firm or individual is qualified or has experience of exceptional worth for the assignment. Lack of time to conduct a competitive procurement is not an acceptable justification to use SSS.

P1.B.3.16 When continuity for downstream work is essential, the initial RFP shall outline this prospect, and if practical, the factors used for the selection of the consultant shall take the likelihood of continuation into account. Continuity in the technical approach, experience acquired, and continued professional liability of the same consultant may make continuation with the initial consultant preferable to a new competition, subject to satisfactory performance in the initial assignment. For such downstream assignments, the MCA Entity shall ask the initially selected consultant to prepare technical and financial proposals on the basis of the TOR furnished by the MCA Entity, which shall then be negotiated.

P1.B.3.17 If the initial assignment was not awarded on a competitive basis or if the downstream assignment is substantially¹ larger in value, a competitive process acceptable to MCC shall be followed in which the consultant carrying out the initial work is not excluded from consideration if the consultant expresses interest; provided that there is no conflict of interest. MCC will consider exceptions to this rule only under special circumstances.

P1.B.3.18 Any consulting services that cannot be competitively bid shall be justified and documented through the use of a Sole Source Form. Once the justification for Sole Source Selection is approved per Attachment A PPG Approval Matrix, the MCA Entity shall request the selected firm or consultant to prepare a proposal using the SBD bidding forms and on the basis of the TOR. At the end of the proposal review process, the MCA Entity shall prepare a report documenting the results of the review and, if required by Attachment A PPG Approval Matrix, submit the report to MCC for its review and approval. The report shall include eligibility checks, technical responsiveness, and price reasonableness of the proposal.

P1.B.3.19 For all SSS procurements valued above USD5,000, the MCA Entity, after the contract signature, shall post at the MCA Entity's website or such appropriate website designated by the MCA Entity and approved by MCC, the name of the consultant, price, duration, and summary scope of the SSS contract. This information may be published quarterly and in the format of a summarized table covering the previous period. In some cases, MCC may require the MCA Entity to publish the intent to use SSS prior to entering into a contract and obtain input from the market.

¹ Substantially is considered 10 percent or above of the initial contract value per Attachment A PPG Approvals Matrix