

Request for Proposals

Monetization Services for IESC

Issue Date:	6 April 2020
Closing Date For Proposals:	24 April 2020
Closing Time:	5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)
Project Title:	Monetization Services For IESC
Offer Reference Number:	MONETIZATION RFP-001-2020

1. Disclaimer

The information contained in this request for proposals (hereinafter referred to as RFP) document is provided to the Offeror(s) by the International Executive Service Corps (IESC) in anticipation of IESC's proposal in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food for Progress [Fiscal Year 2020 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).

IESC desires to receive proposals from companies or consultants (Offerors) to serve as sales agents, who specialize in the monetization of agricultural products, with expertise in working with USDA Food for Progress (FFPr) programs to support monetization efforts for this potential proposal and subsequent program, should the proposal be accepted.

IESC is submitting two proposals in response to the RFP. IESC anticipates awarding one contract for each proposal and subsequent program, pending USDA making an award to IESC. IESC plans to award a separate contract for each proposal. An Offeror may submit for one or both IESC proposals.

The purpose of this RFP document is to provide Offeror(s) with information to assist them in the preparation of their proposal/s for the services that IESC seeks to source. This RFP document does not claim to contain all the information each Offeror may require. Each Offeror should conduct their own assessment and should check the accuracy, reliability, and completeness of the information in this RFP document, and where necessary obtain independent advice from appropriate sources.

IESC may cancel this RFP and is under no obligation to make an award as a result of this RFP, although IESC fully anticipates doing so, should IESC's proposal be selected. The RFP will consist of activities in two stages. **Stage One: Proposal** stage is anticipated to begin in April 2020 and **Stage Two: Award** stage upon program award, should IESC's proposal/s be selected, in September/October 2020.

Note that USDA determines proposal notification, award, and start dates, and they are subject to change at USDA or IESC's discretion. Any activities under a final agreement are subject to and shall be carried out in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the USDA for foreign donation of agricultural commodities, codified at 7 CFR 1499, 2 CFR 200 and any other subsequently published rule or regulation governing the FFPr program.

IESC may, at its own discretion, but without being under any obligation to do so, update, amend, or supplement the information in this RFP document.

Interested offerors are responsible for all costs associated with preparation and submission of proposals and will not be reimbursed by IESC.

Any contract resulting from this RFP will be a fixed unit price contract with price based on a percentage of sales. IESC will make payment in stage two based on the successful monetization of the awarded commodity.

2. Background

IESC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to equitable, sustainable economic growth in developing countries. We believe that a robust private sector is the cornerstone of resilient economies and stable countries. For more than 55 years, IESC has focused on market-driven private enterprise development. IESC is currently the award holder for two FFPr programs in the Dominican Republic and Sri Lanka.

The Food for Progress (FFPr) program, authorized by the Food for Progress Act of 1985, aims to improve agricultural production and expand trade of agricultural products in developing countries. The program provides for the donation of U.S. agricultural commodities as well as financial and technical assistance to carry out programs with these goals. Programs are primarily funded through the sale of these donated commodities within the foreign market where the program is implemented. Implementing organizations request commodities and USDA purchases those commodities from the U.S. market. USDA donates the commodities to the implementing organizations and pays for the freight to move the commodity to the recipient country. Depending on the agreement, the commodities donated through FFPr may be sold in the recipient country, and the proceeds used to support agricultural, economic, or infrastructure development programs.

3. Period of Performance

The anticipated period of performance, should IESC be selected, will be April/May 2020 for the proposal and then if awarded from October 2020 to the end of the final monetization.

4. Scope Statement

IESC is seeking a monetization agent to develop monetization plans and monetize commodities for supporting an agricultural development program through the FFPr initiative. All quotations must be valid for one hundred and twenty (120) days.

5. Statement Of Work

5.1. Schedule of Authorities

The sales agent for monetization will report to the program manager.

5.2. Activities

The sales agent for monetization is expected to undertake the following tasks:

Stage One: Proposal

The Offeror will participate in the full proposal process and develop the monetization plan for each proposal, based on the requirements of the USDA's RFP. The Offeror will be required to research and recommend monetization commodities for each proposed country that meets market needs and provides value for the program. The Offeror will develop and write the monetization plan. The write up will be reviewed at least twice and the Offer is expected to further the draft responsive to reviewer comments within the required timeframe as the proposal stage is finalized.

Stage Two: Award

Should IESC be awarded a FFPr program(s), the Offeror will undertake the following:

1. Assist IESC in monetization aspects pertaining to its negotiation of the USDA award(s) (Agreement) as required;
2. Prepare a detailed monetization plan for IESC monetization of the approved commodity(ies). The monetization plan will be presented to IESC for approval prior to conducting sales. The plan is anticipated to include: proposed sales methodology; proposed timing of commodity shipments; identification of potential purchasers of monetization commodities; applicable import requirements and identification of any potential risks re: import of commodity; a contingency plan if programmed tonnages cannot be sold as planned; and any other requirements by USDA. Sales agent will then implement the plan as approved by IESC and USDA;
3. Prepare tender documentation in consultation with IESC for submission to, and for approval of, USDA;
4. Conduct the sale of monetization commodities in country, upon USDA approval of tender documentation, negotiating terms and conditions on behalf of IESC; thereby,

representing the interests of IESC. The sales agent will consult with, and keep IESC informed, throughout the monetization sales process;

5. Work with IESC to submit tender results to USDA and provide relevant guidance/feedback for approval of sales prices and other relevant terms of sale;
6. Prepare sales contracts in consultation with IESC, after approval by USDA of sales tender prices and other relevant terms of sale. The sales agent should note that IESC shall retain final review and signing authority for all actions hereunder as pertaining to IESC commodities. The sales agent shall not have any authority to bind IESC in any contract(s) of sale with buyer(s);
7. Work with buyers/buyers' financial institutions to put in place deposit(s) and secure payment instruments (such as letters of credit) and ensure timely payments are received by IESC in accordance with the approved sales contracts. In consultation with IESC, the sales agent will evaluate buyers' payment instruments prior to moving forward with call forward(s) and provide oversight to assure compliance with sales contracts;
8. Assist IESC and the freight forwarder in preparing USDA call forward(s) for commodities;
9. Provide all information with respect to the monetization process that is necessary for IESC to report on a semiannual basis in accordance with USDA requirements; and
10. Oversee billing and ensure timely receipt of payments from the commodity buyers to IESC's nominated bank account as per the sales contract.

6. Contract Type

The contract is anticipated to be a fixed unit price, as a percentage of sales, to be paid in stage two based on the successful monetization of the awarded commodity.

7. Instructions to Offerors

7.1. Submission

- 1) Offers received after the closing date may not be considered.
- 2) Offers must be in U.S. Dollars.
- 3) Technical and cost proposals must be submitted as two separate documents. Cost information must not be included in the technical proposal.

Offerors must submit their proposals by the closing date and time, as listed on page one, to the following: Brendan Gernes, Program Associate, at bgernes@iesc.org.

7.2. Clarification and Amendments

Offerors may request clarifications via email to **bgernes@iesc.org** not later than **5:00 p.m., Washington DC Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) time, on Monday, April 13, 2020**. IESC will provide answers to these questions and requests for clarification asked by all Offerors simultaneously via email and posted on the IESC website with the RFP before the close of business on/or before **Tuesday, April 14, 2020**. IESC may not answer questions before the proposal submission deadline outside of the allotted response period for clarifications. No questions will be answered over the phone or in person.

7.3. Cover Page and Markings

In addition to the required proposal documents listed in sections 10 and 11 below, please include a cover page with your submission for the technical and the cost proposals (separate cover pages). The cover page should be on company letterhead and should contain the following information:

- 1) Project or Title (from the front page of this RFP document)
- 2) Offer Reference Number (from the front page of this RFP document)
- 3) Company Name
- 4) Company Address
- 5) Name of Company's authorized representative
- 6) Contact person if different than Company's representative
- 7) Telephone #, Cellular/Mobile Phone #, Email address
- 8) Duration of Validity of proposal
- 9) Payment terms
- 10) DUNS # (Applies to companies, not to individuals)
- 11) Total Proposed Price (**cover page of cost proposal only**)
- 12) Signature, date, and time

8. Eligibility Requirements

Offeror may be required to present a business license and must have experience in monetizing commodities for USDA FFPr programs. Offerors may need to obtain a DUNS number and an eligibility notice prior to receiving any award. Award will be contingent upon USDA final approval.

9. Basis for Award

IESC anticipates that award will be based on best-value principles. Accordingly, award will be made to the technically acceptable Offerors whose proposals provide the greatest

overall value to IESC and the USDA FFPr program, price, and other factors considered. The winning proposal must conform to all solicitation requirements.

To determine best value, proposals will be evaluated on the criteria below. The number of points assigned, totaling 100 points, indicates the relative importance of each individual criterion. Offerors should note that these criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant factors that Offerors should address in their proposals; and, (b) set the standard against which all proposals will be evaluated.

10. Technical Proposal Evaluation

Please read carefully, the following are instructions for preparing proposals. Proposals must be organized into sections corresponding to the sections presented in **10.1 Technical Evaluation Criteria** and numbered accordingly. Please stay in the page limits given below. Only include the requested information and avoid submitting extra content. Any pages exceeding the page limitation for each section of the proposal may not be evaluated.

Proposals shall be written in English with each page numbered consecutively. Cover pages, dividers, and tables of contents are not subject to the page limit.

10.1. Technical Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria. Points will also reflect the overall presentation of the proposal, which should be clear, complete, well organized, and well written. Most importantly, proposals should address all the requirements listed in this RFP.

[1] Technical and management approach: 3 or 5page limit; possible points 50

Proposals will be scored on the effectiveness of the proposal to meet the requirements of the monetization process for the program, as outlined in **Section 5.2 Activities**. IESC plans to submit two proposals, one for Colombia and one for Bangladesh. As IESC anticipates selecting one Offeror for each proposal/award (total of two Offerors), Offerors must indicate whether they are submitting for Bangladesh or Colombia, or both (if they would like to be considered for both).

If Offeror would like to be considered for both (Bangladesh and Colombia), then two additional pages may be added to the original three, for a total of five pages, and the process described below should be completed for each country/plan. Each country will be scored independently. Proposals will be scored based on:

Stage One: FFPr Proposal

Offerors should provide a brief description of process for assisting IESC to prepare a proposal for USDA with a description of their qualifications in preparing monetization plans for proposals, including the process for identifying and recommending commodities that provide value for the program and meet the market needs for monetization. (This section only needs to be done once, if an Offeror is submitting for both countries).

Stage Two: FFPr Award

Offerors should describe their expertise by selecting one country from the following two countries listed in the NOFO: Colombia or Bangladesh when describing the below.

- Describe timing for completing a monetization plan for USDA, which is the initial deliverable in the award stage;
- Describe necessary steps and the approximate duration of each step of the process;
- Description of commodity sales process including a description of necessary steps and approximate duration of each step of the process;
- Assessment of storage, transportation, and sales options in selected example country; and,
- A demonstrated understanding of the market environment in the selected country.

[2] Offeror's past performance and references: 3 or 5 pg. limit (not including samples of previous work, which may be attachments); possible points 30

The proposal must provide a detailed account of the Offeror's record in implementing similar activities to those outlined in the tasks and activities. The technical proposal shall include a summary of past performance conducting monetization for Food Aid Programs. Offerors should provide experience in general, and specifically include experience in the FFPr NOFO listed priority countries of Colombia or Bangladesh or both. If an Offeror is submitting for one country, then a three page limit is allowed; if submitting both countries, then a 5 page limit is allowed.

This part should include sufficient information to demonstrate the Offeror's performance for the above tasks and activities and include how the overall approach, including problem solving, is based on extensive prior experience monetizing a wide variety of commodities for USDA programs.

Offerors should provide a minimum of three (3) references for past and present programs, to include the contact information of three prior or current employers or clients for which the sales agent for monetization has completed a similar task, at least one of which must be under an FFPr program. References must include contact information.

[3] Offeror's Personnel Experience and Capacities: 3 pg. limit (not including resumes or CVs, which are attachments); possible points 20

The technical proposal must include a description (biographical sketch acceptable) of the individual, or for companies a minimum of one, but not more than two, senior management personnel, who would directly work on the monetization plans (Stages One and Two) and be engaged in the commodities sale. Resumes or CVs must be submitted as attachments for individuals submitted in this section and do not count within the page limitations of this section.

This section will be marked on the extent to which the Offeror's or its personnel have experience in the monetization of USDA FFPr-funded programs and experience with the NOFO listed priority countries: Colombia and Bangladesh, and geographically related countries.

11. Cost Proposal Evaluation

The Offeror shall submit a separate cost proposal, to include the project cost of performing the monetization. There will be no payment for work completed during the proposal stage.

Offerors should indicate the fixed rate as a percentage of commodities' sales that they would charge during Stage Two should USDA award a program to IESC. Offerors should specify if the percentage rate is the same for any monetization amount or if they have a scale based on total proceeds. Travel is expected during Stage Two. The Fixed percentage rate should be inclusive of travel expenses. If submitting for both countries, Offerors should include a fixed percentage for each country.

All proposed costs must be in accordance with the U.S. Government Cost Principles under 2 CFR 200.

12. Deviations

IESC reserves the right to waive any deviations by offerors from the requirements of this solicitation that in IESC's opinion are considered not to be material defects requiring rejection or disqualification; or where such a waiver will promote increased competition.

13. Discrepancies

Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your proposal. Any discrepancy in following the instructions or contract provisions may disqualify your proposal without recourse or an appeal for reconsideration at any stage.

14. Conflict of Interest Declaration for the IESC Monetization Services

The following steps outline IESC's contract selection process and should be understood by all Offerors to ensure the transparency of awards and avoid conflict of interest.

- 1) Request for Proposals (RFPs) are posted on IESC's website. The offer is open to all qualified offerors;
- 2) Clarifications will be emailed to all offerors submitting questions, as well as posted on IESC's website, simultaneously;
- 3) Once the proposals are received, an evaluation committee scores them;
- 4) Cost proposals are evaluated for reasonableness, accuracy, and completeness;
- 5) The best value proposal is selected based on a combination of the technical score and the cost;
- 6) No activity can be started until both IESC and the awardee have signed a formal contract; and,
- 7) IESC policy against fraud and code of business ethics exists throughout the life of the subcontract and beyond. Even if the contract is closed, if any party is found guilty of fraud, IESC will make a full report to the USDA Office of Inspector General, which may choose to investigate and prosecute guilty parties to the fullest extent of the law.

Any contracts awarded will be required to comply with all administrative standards and provisions required by USDA, as listed in the NOFO, once released, and any final Award made from USDA. IESC reserves the right to cancel any planned proposal based on final terms of the USDA NOFO.

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