

- 10.1. Prospective bidders may request for clarification on and/or interpretation of any part of the Bidding Documents. Such 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 and the website of the Procuring Entity concerned, if available, and at any conspicuous place in the premises of the Procuring Entity concerned. It shall be the responsibility of all Bidders 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 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 of 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
  - (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 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 applicable Price Schedules, in accordance with **ITB** Clauses 15.1 and 15.4;
- (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 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 price 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 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.

## 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)
<p>(a) Cash or cashier's/manager's check issued by a Universal or Commercial Bank.</p> <p><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></p>	Two percent (2%)
<p>(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.</p> <p><i>For biddings conducted by LGUs, Bank Draft/Guarantee, or Irrevocable Letter of Credit may be issued by other banks certified by the BSP as authorized to issue such financial instrument.</i></p>	
<p>(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.</p>	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 suspended for a period of time from being qualified to participate in any

government procurement activity in the event it violates any of the conditions stated therein as provided in the guidelines issued by the GPPB.

- 18.2. The bid security should be valid for the period specified in the **BDS**. Any bid not accompanied by an acceptable bid security shall be rejected by the Procuring Entity as non-responsive.
- 18.3. No bid securities shall be returned to Bidders after the opening of bids and before contract signing, except to those that failed or declared as post-disqualified, upon submission of a written waiver of their right to file a request for reconsideration and/or protest, or upon the lapse of the reglementary period to file a request for reconsideration or protest. Without prejudice on its forfeiture, bid securities shall be returned only after the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid (LCRB) has signed the contract and furnished the performance security, but in no case later than the expiration of the bid security validity period indicated in **ITB** Clause 18.2.
- 18.4. Upon signing and execution of the contract pursuant to **ITB** Clause 32, and the posting of the performance security pursuant to **ITB** Clause 33, the successful Bidder's bid security will be discharged, but in no case later than the bid security validity period as indicated in the **ITB** Clause 18.2.
- 18.5. The bid security may be forfeited:
  - (a) if a Bidder:
    - (i) withdraws its bid during the period of bid validity specified in **ITB** Clause 17;
    - (ii) does not accept the correction of errors pursuant to **ITB** Clause 28.3(b);
    - (iii) has a finding against the veracity of any of the documents submitted as stated in **ITB** Clause 29.2;
    - (iv) submission of eligibility requirements containing false information or falsified documents;
    - (v) submission of bids that contain false information or falsified documents, or the concealment of such information in the bids in order to influence the outcome of eligibility screening or any other stage of the public bidding;
    - (vi) allowing the use of one's name, or using the name of another for purposes of public bidding;
    - (vii) withdrawal of a bid, or refusal to accept an award, or enter into contract with the Government without justifiable cause, after the Bidder had been adjudged as having submitted the LCRB;
    - (viii) refusal or failure to post the required performance security within the prescribed time;



- (ix) refusal to clarify or validate in writing its bid during post-qualification within a period of seven (7) calendar days from receipt of the request for clarification;
  - (x) any documented attempt by a Bidder to unduly influence the outcome of the bidding in his favor;
  - (xi) failure of the potential joint venture partners to enter into the joint venture after the bid is declared successful; or
  - (xii) all other acts that tend to defeat the purpose of the competitive bidding, such as habitually withdrawing from bidding, submitting late Bids or patently insufficient bid, for at least three (3) times within a year, except for valid reasons.
- (b) if the successful Bidder:
- (i) fails to sign the contract in accordance with **ITB** Clause 32; or
  - (ii) fails to furnish performance security in accordance with **ITB** Clause 33.

## **19. Format and Signing of Bids**

- 19.1. Bidders shall submit their bids through their duly authorized representative using the appropriate forms provided in Section VIII. Bidding Forms on or before the deadline specified in the **ITB** Clauses 21 in two (2) separate sealed bid envelopes, and which shall be submitted simultaneously. The first shall contain the technical component of the bid, including the eligibility requirements under **ITB** Clause 12.1, and the second shall contain the financial component of the bid. This shall also be observed for each lot in the case of lot procurement.
- 19.2. Forms as mentioned in **ITB** Clause 19.1 must be completed without any alterations to their format, and no substitute form shall be accepted. All blank spaces shall be filled in with the information requested.
- 19.3. The Bidder shall prepare and submit an original of the first and second envelopes as described in **ITB** Clauses 12 and 13. In addition, the Bidder shall submit copies of the first and second envelopes. In the event of any discrepancy between the original and the copies, the original shall prevail.
- 19.4. Each and every page of the Bid Form, including the Schedule of Prices, under Section VIII hereof, shall be signed by the duly authorized representative/s of the Bidder. Failure to do so shall be a ground for the rejection of the bid.
- 19.5. Any interlineations, erasures, or overwriting shall be valid only if they are signed or initialed by the duly authorized representative/s of the Bidder.

## **20. Sealing and Marking of Bids**

- 20.1. Bidders shall enclose their original eligibility and technical documents described in **ITB** Clause 12 in one sealed envelope marked “ORIGINAL - TECHNICAL COMPONENT”, and the original of their financial component in another sealed envelope marked “ORIGINAL - FINANCIAL COMPONENT”, sealing them all in an outer envelope marked “ORIGINAL BID”.
- 20.2. Each copy of the first and second envelopes shall be similarly sealed duly marking the inner envelopes as “COPY NO. \_\_\_ - TECHNICAL COMPONENT” and “COPY NO. \_\_\_ – FINANCIAL COMPONENT” and the outer envelope as “COPY NO. \_\_\_”, respectively. These envelopes containing the original and the copies shall then be enclosed in one single envelope.
- 20.3. The original and the number of copies of the Bid as indicated in the **BDS** shall be typed or written in ink and shall be signed by the Bidder or its duly authorized representative/s.
- 20.4. All envelopes shall:
- (a) contain the name of the contract to be bid in capital letters;
  - (b) bear the name and address of the Bidder in capital letters;
  - (c) be addressed to the Procuring Entity’s BAC in accordance with **ITB** Clause 1.1;
  - (d) bear the specific identification of this bidding process indicated in the **ITB** Clause 1.2; and
  - (e) bear a warning “DO NOT OPEN BEFORE...” the date and time for the opening of bids, in accordance with **ITB** Clause 21.
- 20.5. Bid envelopes that are not properly sealed and marked, as required in the bidding documents, shall not be rejected, but the Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall acknowledge such condition of the bid as submitted. The BAC or the Procuring Entity shall assume no responsibility for the misplacement of the contents of the improperly sealed or marked bid, or for its premature opening.

## **D. Submission and Opening of Bids**

### **21. Deadline for Submission of Bids**

Bids must be received by the Procuring Entity’s BAC at the address and on or before the date and time indicated in the **BDS**.

### **22. Late Bids**

Any bid submitted after the deadline for submission and receipt of bids prescribed by the Procuring Entity, pursuant to **ITB** Clause 21, shall be declared “Late” and shall

not be accepted by the Procuring Entity. The BAC shall record in the minutes of bid submission and opening, the Bidder's name, its representative and the time the late bid was submitted.

## **23. Modification and Withdrawal of Bids**

- 23.1. The Bidder may modify its bid after it has been submitted; provided that the modification is received by the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline prescribed for submission and receipt of bids. The Bidder shall not be allowed to retrieve its original bid, but shall be allowed to submit another bid equally sealed and properly identified in accordance with ITB Clause 20, linked to its original bid marked as "TECHNICAL MODIFICATION" or "FINANCIAL MODIFICATION" and stamped "received" by the BAC. Bid modifications received after the applicable deadline shall not be considered and shall be returned to the Bidder unopened.
- 23.2. A Bidder may, through a Letter of Withdrawal, withdraw its bid after it has been submitted, for valid and justifiable reason; provided that the Letter of Withdrawal is received by the Procuring Entity prior to the deadline prescribed for submission and receipt of bids. The Letter of Withdrawal must be executed by the duly authorized representative of the Bidder identified in the Omnibus Sworn Statement, a copy of which should be attached to the letter.
- 23.3. Bids requested to be withdrawn in accordance with **ITB** Clause 23.1 shall be returned unopened to the Bidders. A Bidder, who has acquired the bidding documents, may also express its intention not to participate in the bidding through a letter which should reach and be stamped by the BAC before the deadline for submission and receipt of bids. A Bidder that withdraws its bid shall not be permitted to submit another bid, directly or indirectly, for the same contract.
- 23.4. No bid may be modified after the deadline for submission of bids. No bid may be withdrawn in the interval between the deadline for submission of bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified by the Bidder on the Financial Bid Form. Withdrawal of a bid during this interval shall result in the forfeiture of the Bidder's bid security, pursuant to **ITB** Clause 18.5, and the imposition of administrative, civil and criminal sanctions as prescribed by RA 9184 and its IRR.

## **24. Opening and Preliminary Examination of Bids**

- 24.1. The BAC shall open the bids in public, immediately after the deadline for the submission and receipt of bids, as specified in the **BDS**. In case the Bids cannot be opened as scheduled due to justifiable reasons, the BAC shall take custody of the Bids submitted and reschedule the opening of Bids on the next working day or at the soonest possible time through the issuance of a Notice of Postponement to be posted in the PhilGEPS website and the website of the Procuring Entity concerned.

- 24.2. Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, the BAC shall open the first bid envelopes and determine each Bidder's compliance with the documents prescribed in **ITB** Clause 12, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion. If a Bidder submits the required document, it shall be rated "passed" for that particular requirement. In this regard, bids that fail to include any requirement or are incomplete or patently insufficient shall be considered as "failed". Otherwise, the BAC shall rate the said first bid envelope as "passed".
- 24.3. Unless otherwise specified in the **BDS**, immediately after determining compliance with the requirements in the first envelope, the BAC shall forthwith open the second bid envelope of each remaining eligible bidder whose first bid envelope was rated "passed". The second envelope of each complying bidder shall be opened within the same day. In case one or more of the requirements in the second envelope of a particular bid is missing, incomplete or patently insufficient, and/or if the submitted total bid price exceeds the ABC unless otherwise provided in **ITB** Clause 13.2, the BAC shall rate the bid concerned as "failed". Only bids that are determined to contain all the bid requirements for both components shall be rated "passed" and shall immediately be considered for evaluation and comparison.
- 24.4. Letters of Withdrawal shall be read out and recorded during bid opening, and the envelope containing the corresponding withdrawn bid shall be returned to the Bidder unopened.
- 24.5. All members of the BAC who are present during bid opening shall initial every page of the original copies of all bids received and opened.
- 24.6. In the case of an eligible foreign bidder as described in **ITB** Clause 5, the following Class "A" Documents may be substituted with the appropriate equivalent documents, if any, issued by the country of the foreign Bidder concerned, which shall likewise be uploaded and maintained in the PhilGEPS in accordance with Section 8.5.2 of the IRR:
- (a) Registration certificate from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for sole proprietorship, or CDA for cooperatives;
  - (b) Mayor's/Business permit issued by the local government where the principal place of business of the bidder is located; and
  - (c) Audited Financial Statements showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the preceding calendar year which should not be earlier than two years from the date of bid submission.
- 24.7. Each partner of a joint venture agreement shall likewise submit the requirements in **ITB** Clause 12.1(a)(i). Submission of documents required under **ITB** Clauses 12.1(a)(ii) to 12.1(a)(iii) by any of the joint venture partners constitutes compliance.

- 24.8. The Procuring Entity shall prepare the minutes of the proceedings of the bid opening that shall include, as a minimum: (a) names of Bidders, their bid price (per lot, if applicable, and/or including discount, if any), bid security, findings of preliminary examination, and whether there is a withdrawal or modification; and (b) attendance sheet. The BAC members shall sign the abstract of bids as read.
- 24.8 The bidders or their duly authorized representatives may attend the opening of bids. The BAC shall ensure the integrity, security, and confidentiality of all submitted bids. The Abstract of Bids as read and the minutes of the bid opening shall be made available to the public upon written request and payment of a specified fee to recover cost of materials.
- 24.9 To ensure transparency and accurate representation of the bid submission, the BAC Secretariat shall notify in writing all bidders whose bids it has received through its PhilGEPS-registered physical address or official e-mail address. The notice shall be issued within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the bid opening.

## **E. Evaluation and Comparison of Bids**

### **25. Process to be Confidential**

- 25.1. Members of the BAC, including its staff and personnel, as well as its Secretariat and TWG, are prohibited from making or accepting any kind of communication with any bidder regarding the evaluation of their bids until the issuance of the Notice of Award, unless otherwise allowed in the case of **ITB** Clause 26.
- 25.2. Any effort by a bidder to influence the Procuring Entity in the Procuring Entity's decision in respect of bid evaluation, bid comparison or contract award will result in the rejection of the Bidder's bid.

### **26. Clarification of Bids**

To assist in the evaluation, comparison, and post-qualification of the bids, the Procuring Entity may ask in writing any Bidder for a clarification of its bid. All responses to requests for clarification shall be in writing. Any clarification submitted by a Bidder in respect to its bid and that is not in response to a request by the Procuring Entity shall not be considered.

### **27. Domestic Preference**

- 27.1. Unless otherwise stated in the **BDS**, the Procuring Entity will grant a margin of preference for the purpose of comparison of bids in accordance with the following:
- (a) The preference shall be applied when the lowest Foreign Bid is lower than the lowest bid offered by a Domestic Bidder.

- (b) For evaluation purposes, the lowest Foreign Bid shall be increased by fifteen percent (15%).
  - (c) In the event that the lowest bid offered by a Domestic Bidder does not exceed the lowest Foreign Bid as increased, then the Procuring Entity shall award the contract to the Domestic Bidder at the amount of the lowest Foreign Bid.
  - (d) If the Domestic Bidder refuses to accept the award of contract at the amount of the Foreign Bid within two (2) calendar days from receipt of written advice from the BAC, the Procuring Entity shall award to the bidder offering the Foreign Bid, subject to post-qualification and submission of all the documentary requirements under these Bidding Documents.
- 27.2. A Bidder may be granted preference as a Domestic Bidder subject to the certification from the DTI that the Bidder is offering unmanufactured articles, materials or supplies of the growth or production of the Philippines, or manufactured articles, materials, or supplies manufactured or to be manufactured in the Philippines substantially from articles, materials, or supplies of the growth, production, or manufacture, as the case may be, of the Philippines.

## 28. Detailed Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

- 28.1. The Procuring Entity will undertake the detailed evaluation and comparison of bids which have passed the opening and preliminary examination of bids, pursuant to **ITB** Clause 24, in order to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid.
- 28.2. The Lowest Calculated Bid shall be determined in two steps:
- (a) The detailed evaluation of the financial component of the bids, to establish the correct calculated prices of the bids; and
  - (b) The ranking of the total bid prices as so calculated from the lowest to the highest. The bid with the lowest price shall be identified as the Lowest Calculated Bid.
- 28.3. The Procuring Entity's BAC shall immediately conduct a detailed evaluation of all bids rated "passed," using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. The BAC shall consider the following in the evaluation of bids:
- (a) Completeness of the bid. Unless the **BDS** allows partial bids, bids not addressing or providing all of the required items in the Schedule of Requirements 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 Procuring Entity, except those required by law or regulations to be provided for; and

- (b) Arithmetical corrections. Consider computational errors and omissions to enable proper comparison of all eligible bids. It may also consider bid modifications. Any adjustment shall be calculated in monetary terms to determine the calculated prices.
- 28.4. Based on the detailed evaluation of bids, those that comply with the above-mentioned requirements shall be ranked in the ascending order of their total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, to identify the Lowest Calculated Bid. Total calculated bid prices, as evaluated and corrected for computational errors, discounts and other modifications, which exceed the ABC shall not be considered, unless otherwise indicated in the **BDS**.
- 28.5. The Procuring Entity's evaluation of bids shall be based on the bid price quoted in the Bid Form, which includes the Schedule of Prices.
- 28.6. Bids shall be evaluated on an equal footing to ensure fair competition. For this purpose, all bidders shall be required to include in their bids the cost of all taxes, such as, but not limited to, value added tax (VAT), income tax, local taxes, and other fiscal levies and duties which shall be itemized in the bid form and reflected in the detailed estimates. Such bids, including said taxes, shall be the basis for bid evaluation and comparison.
- 28.7. If so indicated pursuant to **ITB** Clause 1.2, Bids are being invited for individual lots or for any combination thereof, provided that all Bids and combinations of Bids shall be received by the same deadline and opened and evaluated simultaneously so as to determine the Bid or combination of Bids offering the lowest calculated cost to the Procuring Entity. Bid prices quoted shall correspond to all items specified for each lot and to all quantities specified for each item of a lot. Bid Security as required by **ITB** Clause 18 shall be submitted for each contract (lot) separately. The basis for evaluation of lots is specified in BDS Clause 28.3.

## 29. Post-Qualification

- 29.1. The BAC shall determine to its satisfaction whether the Bidder that is evaluated as having submitted the Lowest Calculated Bid complies with and is responsive to all the requirements and conditions specified in **ITB** Clauses 5, 12, and 13.
- 29.2. Within a non-extendible period of five (5) calendar days from receipt by the bidder of the notice from the BAC that it submitted the Lowest Calculated Bid, the Bidder shall submit its latest income and business tax returns filed and paid through the BIR Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) and other appropriate licenses and permits required by law and stated in the **BDS**.

Failure to submit any of the post-qualification requirements on time, or a finding against the veracity thereof, shall disqualify the bidder for award. Provided in the event that a finding against the veracity of any of the documents submitted is made, it shall cause the forfeiture of the bid security in accordance with Section 69 of the IRR of RA 9184.

- 29.3. The determination shall be based upon an examination of the documentary evidence of the Bidder's qualifications submitted pursuant to **ITB** Clauses 12 and 13, as well as other information as the Procuring Entity deems necessary and appropriate, using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion, which shall be completed within a period of twelve (12) calendar days.
- 29.4. If the BAC determines that the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid passes all the criteria for post-qualification, it shall declare the said bid as the LCRB, and recommend to the HoPE the award of contract to the said Bidder at its submitted price or its calculated bid price, whichever is lower.
- 29.5. A negative determination shall result in rejection of the Bidder's Bid, in which event the Procuring Entity shall proceed to the next Lowest Calculated Bid with a fresh period to make a similar determination of that Bidder's capabilities to perform satisfactorily. If the second Bidder, however, fails the post qualification, the procedure for post qualification shall be repeated for the Bidder with the next Lowest Calculated Bid, and so on until the LCRB is determined for recommendation for contract award.
- 29.6. Within a period not exceeding fifteen (15) calendar days from the determination by the BAC of the LCRB and the recommendation to award the contract, the HoPE or his duly authorized representative shall approve or disapprove the said recommendation.
- 29.7. In the event of disapproval, which shall be based on valid, reasonable, and justifiable grounds as provided for under Section 41 of the IRR of RA 9184, the HoPE shall notify the BAC and the Bidder in writing of such decision and the grounds for it. When applicable, the BAC shall conduct a post-qualification of the Bidder with the next Lowest Calculated Bid. A request for reconsideration may be filed by the bidder with the HoPE in accordance with Section 37.1.3 of the IRR of RA 9184.

### **30. Reservation Clause**

- 30.1. Notwithstanding the eligibility or post-qualification of a Bidder, the Procuring Entity concerned reserves the right to review its qualifications at any stage of the procurement process if it has reasonable grounds to believe that a misrepresentation has been made by the said Bidder, or that there has been a change in the Bidder's capability to undertake the project from the time it submitted its eligibility requirements. Should such review uncover any misrepresentation made in the eligibility and bidding requirements, statements or documents, or any changes in the situation of the Bidder which will affect its capability to undertake the project so that it fails the preset eligibility or bid evaluation criteria, the Procuring Entity shall consider the said Bidder as ineligible and shall disqualify it from submitting a bid or from obtaining an award or contract.
- 30.2. Based on the following grounds, the Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a Failure of Bidding at any time prior to the contract award, or not to award the contract, without thereby incurring any



liability, and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding:

- (a) If there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the Procuring Entity, or between the BAC and any of the Bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a Bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition;
- (b) If the Procuring Entity's BAC is found to have failed in following the prescribed bidding procedures; or
- (c) For any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the GOP as follows:
  - (i) If the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the HoPE;
  - (ii) If the project is no longer necessary as determined by the HoPE; and
  - (iii) If the source of funds for the project has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the Procuring Entity.

30.3. In addition, the Procuring Entity may likewise declare a failure of bidding when:

- (a) No bids are received;
- (b) All prospective Bidders are declared ineligible;
- (c) All bids fail to comply with all the bid requirements or fail post-qualification; or
- (d) The bidder with the LCRB refuses, without justifiable cause to accept the award of contract, and no award is made in accordance with Section 40 of the IRR of RA 9184.

## F. Award of Contract

### 31. Contract Award

- 31.1. Subject to **ITB** Clause 29, the HoPE or its duly authorized representative shall award the contract to the Bidder whose bid has been determined to be the LCRB.
- 31.2. Prior to the expiration of the period of bid validity, the Procuring Entity shall notify the successful Bidder in writing that its bid has been accepted, through a Notice of Award duly received by the Bidder or its representative personally

or sent by registered mail or electronically, receipt of which must be confirmed in writing within two (2) days by the Bidder with the LCRB and submitted personally or sent by registered mail or electronically to the Procuring Entity.

- 31.3. Notwithstanding the issuance of the Notice of Award, award of contract shall be subject to the following conditions:
- (a) Submission of the following documents within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award:
    - (i) Valid JVA, if applicable; or
    - (ii) In the case of procurement by a Philippine Foreign Service Office or Post, the PhilGEPS Registration Number of the winning foreign Bidder;
  - (b) Posting of the performance security in accordance with **ITB** Clause 33;
  - (c) Signing of the contract as provided in **ITB** Clause 32; and
  - (d) Approval by higher authority, if required, as provided in Section 37.3 of the IRR of RA 9184.
- 31.4. At the time of contract award, the Procuring Entity shall not increase or decrease the quantity of goods originally specified in Section VI. Schedule of Requirements.

## **32. Signing of the Contract**

- 32.1. At the same time as the Procuring Entity notifies the successful Bidder that its bid has been accepted, the Procuring Entity shall send the Contract Form to the Bidder, which contract has been provided in the Bidding Documents, incorporating therein all agreements between the parties.
- 32.2. Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice of Award, the successful Bidder shall post the required performance security, sign and date the contract and return it to the Procuring Entity.
- 32.3. The Procuring Entity shall enter into contract with the successful Bidder within the same ten (10) calendar day period provided that all the documentary requirements are complied with.
- 32.4. The following documents shall form part of the contract:
- (a) Contract Agreement;
  - (b) Bidding Documents;
  - (c) Winning bidder's bid, including the Technical and Financial Proposals, and all other documents/statements submitted (*e.g.*, bidder's response