

GUYANA
UNSERVED AREAS ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME
Power/Consultants
AUDIT SERVICES
Loan No. LO 1103/SF-GY
Prequalification No. AS 01/02

The Government of Guyana recently signed the above-mentioned loan contract with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$27,400,000 to support the Unserved Areas Electrification Programme (UAEP) which aims at enhancing government's socio-economic development and poverty alleviation strategy through strengthening the legal, regulatory and institutional framework and providing the financial resources required for accelerated electricity sector development and extension of service to currently unserved consumers.

The UAEP will be executed during the period 2002 to 2006 in the following three components:

*Investment: this component comprises approximately 40,000 new electricity connections in over 220 areas along the coast of Guyana.

*Hinterland project preparation: this component will ascertain a set of technical, institutional and social-environmental guidelines, procedures and criteria in order to establish a sustainable institutional framework for electrification of isolated and remote areas where the extension of existing grids would not be feasible. Based on the results of this study three to five demonstration projects will be carried out.

*Institutional strengthening and capacity-building: this component involves technical and institutional assistance to relevant sector agencies that will support project implementation.

The project will be implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) through a Project Implementation Unit, with the Guyana Power and Light, Inc. (GPL) as the co-executing agency for the investment component. The loan contract requires that financial statements, duly certified by independent auditors, be submitted to the IDB annually. The Auditor General of Guyana is empowered by virtue of the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, Chapter 73:01, as amended, with sole authority to examine and audit any statutory body being a public authority or other body administering public funds.

The Office of the Auditor General wishes to engage the services of an independent accounting/auditing firm that is registered as a chartered accountant with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Guyana with experience in the audit of development projects financed by multilateral financial institutions to carry out financial and operational audits of the UAEP. The consultant should have the capacity and resources (including the services of a competent engineer) to carry out the assignment and be able to comply with the audit requirements of the IDB and the Office of the Auditor General of Guyana. Furthermore, the consultant should have no previous engagement with the executing unit (OPM) or co-executing unit (GPL) and should have a system of internal quality control. The selected firm will be contracted for a period of three years, subject to contractual termination clause.

The Office of the Auditor General now invites eligible local and international accounting/auditing firms from the IDB's member countries to apply for prequalification in relation to the audit services.

Firms seeking to be prequalified are required to (i) present evidence of their legal, technical and financial capacity, as well as relevant experience in providing the services required, and (ii) submit a completed questionnaire in compliance with paragraph 3 of the schedule referred to in section 33 (4) of the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act 1993. Questionnaires may be obtained from the Office of the Auditor General, at the first address below, between 0800 and 1600 hours (Guyana time), Mondays through Fridays, or downloaded from the Office of the Auditor General's web site.

The criteria for evaluation of the prequalification documents shall be as follows:

- *Consultant's qualifications, relevant experience in auditing major bodies and development projects and demonstrated success
- *Consultant's relevant experience in Guyana, the Caribbean and Latin America
- *Qualifications and experience of personnel proposed for this assignment
- *Utilization of local personnel in the performance of the assignment
- *Financial strength of the firm (audited financial statements should be provided)
- *Proficiency in the English language

A shortlist of three to six firms will be selected and invited to submit technical and financial proposals. Any firm registered or incorporated outside of Guyana will be required to be registered in the country. It is anticipated that the provision of services start on 1 March 2003.

Interested consultants may obtain further information, including eligibility to participate, and may inspect the prequalification documents at the first address below.

A complete set of prequalification documents may be obtained by interested parties on the submission of a written application to the same organization and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of G\$ 5,000 in the form of a manager's check or bank draft. It will not be necessary to make the request in person to receive the documents, since these can be sent by mail.

Proposals, inclusive of all relevant enclosures, must be received at the second address below, in a sealed envelope marked on the top right hand corner "Application for Prequalification - Audit Services", on or before 0900 hours (Guyana time) on Tuesday, 31 December 2002. It will not be necessary to submit proposals in person, since they may be sent by mail. However, the employer will not be responsible for proposals not received thereof on or before the time and date specified. Any late proposal will be rejected and returned unopened. Proposals will be opened at 0915 hours on the same day, in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the same address.

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