

RFP02/2021: River Basin Management Plans for Kosovo

QUESTION & ANSWERS N°6 – 12.03.2021

Q1: *Could you please confirm if professional fees and other costs will be paid to the Contractor by SDC or IWRM-K?*

A1: *All costs billed by the Contractor to the IWRM-K Program under this contract shall be paid by Skat Consulting Kosovo (a legally incorporated branch of Skat Consulting Ltd. Switzerland).*

Q2: *Could you please confirm that the Contractor is exempt from Withholding Tax on services provided by non-residents and that this WHT shall not be included in our Financial proposal?*

A2: *The IWRM-K Program is VAT exempt in Kosovo and as such extends this VAT exemption on their procurement of all goods, works, and services in the country. The IWRM-K claims this status based on an inter-governmental agreement between the Government of Switzerland and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and shall extend the VAT exemption documents to the contractors. As per the Kosovo law on value-added tax, supplies exempt from VAT with the right to deduct input include the supply of goods or services under diplomatic and consular arrangements, the supply of goods or services to international and inter-governmental bodies recognized as such by the public authorities of Kosovo, the supply of goods and services made to the United Nations or any of its agencies, the World Bank and international inter-governmental organizations.*

If a bidder cannot effectuate the VAT exempt status they should warn the IWRM-K in advance and provide proof that they have attempted to get tax exemption and provide evidence from their national tax authorities that the VAT exemption cannot be applied to their supply of services to the IWRM-K, in which case the IWRM-K shall consider paying the taxes. During the solicitation process, the bidder shall submit their offer without VAT, and where they consider being liable for VAT, the value of VAT should be clearly indicated in the offer.

For all other taxes, it remains a responsibility of the bidders to be aware of tax issues and responsibilities including personal income and corporate income taxes, and clarify such issues with Kosovo's and their national tax authorities before submission of their bid. The IWRM-K shall not be responsible to provide such information to any bidders.

Q3: *Could you please confirm that the direct and indirect tax exemption is applicable to the Contractor's potential independent experts/sub-contractors?*

A3: *Same as above.*

Q4: *IWRM and RBMP preparation imply many meetings and communication campaigns. Our understanding is that the project will work with the administration, stakeholders, and public. However, all costs relatives to the events will be covered by the Program in general and the other outputs specifically. The financial offer shall not include these costs. Please confirm that our understanding is correct?*

A4: *As a principle, the Contractor will cover all costs for their experts and other staff regardless of the type of activity they will need to carry out (e.g., missions to the country, meetings, site visits, and participation in events). The Program will cover the costs for any event that involves stakeholder participation (e.g., venue, translation, food, and other costs for stakeholder participation). Even for such events, the Contractor will have to cover all costs required for the participation of its experts/staff, i.e. they will not be borne by the Program.*

Q5: *Please clarify the liability period?*

A5: *As the risks associated with the implementation of the contract subject to RFP 02/2021 are extremely low, we would consider the liability period to be indefinite.*

Q6: *Please clarify the confidentiality period, e.g. 3 years?*

A6: *The confidentiality period is also indefinite.*

Q7: *RFP Section 2 DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENTS #17 Performance Security: Can the Contractor procure its own "performance bond"?*

A7: *For the needs of this tender, we can accept performance bonds as a substitute to the performance security requested by the RFP.*