PRE-BID QUERIES AND ANSWERS FOR CPV OUTSOURCING TENDER - PARIS

Date 18.02.2025

1.	Chapter 1: Request for Proposal (RFP)	8. The Mission/Post handled approximately 60,501 no. of services/ transactions during the three years from Jan-2022 to Dec-2024 (equivalent to 81 transactions/services per working day, assuming 250 working days in a year.	5	Please be kind to share the transactions Centre wise details during the three years from Jan-2022 to Dec-2024.	Mission does not have the figures station-wise
2.	Chapter III Clause (vi)	Instructions to Bidders (vi) Bidding companies having outstanding penalties levied by the Indian Mission/Post as per the provisions of the Agreement payable to Missions/Posts/MEA, shall not be considered.	9	notice for levying of penalties/notice demanding	companies that have outstanding penalties levied by any Indian Mission/Posts, irrespective of its current status, shall not be considered and

				negative d	
				received from the Mission/Post MEA. b. Please clarify whether Bidding companies who have challenged the levying of any particular penalties against them whether before	
				Mission/Post MEA or before a court or before an arbitral tribunal are eligible to bid?	
3.	Chapter III clause (vi)	Instructions to Bidders (vi) Bidding companies having outstanding penalties levied by the Indian Mission/Post as per the provisions of the Agreement payable to Missions/Posts/MEA, shall not be considered.	9	Please be kind to clarify whether the penalties that are contested by the Bidding Company including but not limited to for lack of proof and a reply from the Mission is awaited, will be considered as outstanding penalties for the purpose of Chapter III, clause (vi)	The proposal of Bidding companies that have outstanding penalties levied by any Indian Mission/post shall not be considered and summarily rejected. Provision of the RFP will be applied to all, appeal or otherwise of outstanding penalty cases in earlier contracts of respective bidders
4.	Chapter V: Mandatory Eligibility Criteria Point (ii) and (iii) and Annexure –D 1, 2 and 3	The Bidding Company shall provide audited financial information certified by an external auditing agency to substantiate the claim of its turnover	15, 16, 84	Please be kind to clarify about the external audit agency which will be acceptable to the Mission.	Here external means the recognized audit agency in the country where the company is registered.

5.	Chapter VII: Scope of Work and Deliverables Required Clause (x) Appointment System (b)	The SP shall also maintain the turnaround time of 30 minutes for any applicant from token generation to acceptance of application and payment at the counter of ICAC.	24	The Tender specifies the turnaround time for 30 minutes and as per our understanding, the turnaround time will be only for submitting the application and a separate time would be allotted for form filing, photocopy, photograph services.	30-minute turnaround time is a standard requirement for application processing which includes capturing photographs and providing photocopies as well. Only Form-filling service is excluded from the standard Turnaround time of 30 minutes.
6.	Chapter VII: Scope of Work and Deliverables Required Clause G Return of documents to the applicants (c)	Despatch the document(s)/passport / PCC to applicants via courier in a secured manner on the same day (or the next working day in case of delayed receipt).	31	Please be kind to clarify if the courier service is mandatory or optional?	Courier service is a mandatory deliverable to be provided by the SP, with the option for applicant to collect passport/document from ICACs
7.	Chapter VII: Scope of Work and Deliverables Required Point 3 (I)	Application Facilitating Services at ICACs. I) SP shall provide, at no additional cost/charge, the following four Application Facilitating Services, to applicants	40, 41	Please be kind to clarify the total revenue of photocopy, photograph, form filing and courier services availed by the applicants in the last three years for the purpose of calculation of the financial bid.	Bidders to make their own calculation to quote a single service fee as per Annexure-K

		submitting consular applications at ICACs. 1. Photocopy 2. Photographs 3. Form Filing 4. Courier Service			
8.	Part III: Technical Bid Evaluation Proforma Point 1(b)	Parking facilities with capacity and type of parking.	107	Please be kind to clarify, what is the maximum number of parking slots to be considered as adequate slots in ICAC.	Exclusive parking means parking space exclusively reserved for applicants coming to centre for CPV services. Bidders are to arrive at the number of parking slots as per the number of applicants anticipated to visit ICAC and based on existing local norms. Marks under Technical bid evaluation will be awarded based on the information/presentation provided by the bidder.
9.	Part III: Technical Bid Evaluation Proforma Point 4 (a)	Provision of Application Facilitating Services at ICACs Photocopying Photograph Form Filling Courier Services	108	Please be kind to clarify what explanation/solution for the provision of Application Facilitation Services is expected from the Service provider. This will enable us to incorporate the necessary details into our Technical Bid accordingly.	·

		Refer to Chapter VII, para (3) of the RFP (7 marks)			As regards Courier service, Bidder has to provide information regarding the courier despatch process, the courier company to be hired, etc., in its technical bid. Technical Bid evaluation marks will be awarded, based on the solution/explanation provided by the bidder, as per Annexure J (Part-III) of the RFP
10.	Part III: Technical Bid Evaluation Proforma Point 9	Reputation of the bidding company in the market and quality of non-GOI client list and references received from them.	111, 112	Please be kind to clarify the Reference Letters provided to the bidding company by foreign client governments will be considered in assessing market reputation	Reference letters provided to bidding companies by Foreign governments are acceptable
11.	Annexure-K	Financial Bid Note: 1 – Service Fee quoted above is the 'Service Fee per	113	a. Please be kind to clarify how the charges for the courier services to be computed given	Bidders need to factor in courier charges, variability of distances amongst other factors

		application' payable to the Service Provider. Bidder shall quote the Service Fee as per deliverables of the RFP including digitization and indexation of documents, enrolment of fingerprint biometrics, facial Biometric capture, and provision of four Application Facilitating Services viz, photocopying, photographs, Form filling, and Courier Services.		they vary based on distance and local circumstances. b. Please be kind to clarify whether an average of the courier rates is to be taken or a separate disclosure is to be made qua the differential courier rates and ultimately differential service fees.	to offer a singular all-inclusive service fee The bidder has to provide information regarding Courier dispatch process, the courier company to be hired etc in its Technical bid. Marks under Technical bid evaluation will be awarded, based on the information provided by the bidder, as per part III, Annexure-J of the RFP
12.	Annexure-K	Financial Bid Note: 1 – Service Fee quoted above is the 'Service Fee per application' payable to the Service Provider. Bidder shall quote the Service Fee as per deliverables of the RFP including digitization and indexation of documents, enrolment of fingerprint	113	If the Service Fee has multiple components including digitization and indexation of documents, enrolment of fingerprint biometrics, facial Biometric capture, and provision of four Application Facilitating Services viz, photocopying, photographs, Form filling, and Courier Services, please clarify how is the service fee to be quoted if for instance an applicant does	fee per application, as quoted in Annexure K, shall be collected from applicants, regardless of applicants avails any or all of the application facilitation

		biometrics, facial Biometric capture, and provision of four Application Facilitating Services viz, photocopying, photographs, Form filling, and Courier Services.	not avail any or all of the 4 Application Facilitation Services.	
13.	CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Point: 2, page 3	Full services at the Indian Consular Application Centers (ICACs) shall commence within one month of the signing of the Agreement or earlier as may be specified by the Mission & Posts.	The clause stating that full services at the Indian Consular Application Centre (ICAC) shall commence within one month of signing the agreement, along with the operational ICAC. The timelines mentioned are a bit unrealistic for the setup of Indian Consular Application centers and needs to be re-evaluated by the ministry and the mission. A minimum of 45 days is required for a proper uninterrupted setup.	Bidding companies are advised to adhere to the timelines mentioned in the RFP.
14.	A. Dealing with Applicants and Documents, Indian Consular	The SP shall operate, on a regular basis, an exclusive submission counter each at each at the Mission Paris and Post Marseille with	Kindly provide the details of expected number of staff to be deployed for exclusive submission counter at the Mission Paris and Post Marseille.	Yes, one staff for a submission counter at Mission and Post each for all working days is in addition to the minimum staff requirement as spelt out in Chapter VII 1A. (xi) (a) of RFP.

15.	Application Center (ICAC): Point XI, Sub Point (c), Page 24 CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Point: XIV (n), Page 14	adequate number of staff, for processing the applications of special cases, as decided by the Misson/Posts Bidders are required to make a Presentation at the time of evaluation of Technical Bids as per the date and time fixed by the Mission	Index geometric services and services denoted the difference substitute of the services and services are services and services are services and services are services are services and services are serv	che the core operations and chnical team manage the mo and presentation session any organization, it is chnically not possible for em to be present in 5-6 ferent countries on same day, erefore, we kindly request to by ovide revised schedule for bid bmission and technical bid	However, in case of exigencies / sudden increase of applications at Embassy, there may require more counters and staff including back office staff. Technical bid presentation in virtual mode is also allowed if any bidder formally requests for the same. Virtual meeting platform, time, and other details will be intimated to the bidder in advance.
16.	CHAPTER-I:	Dispatch and return		esentation session. es this imply that passports	Dispatch and return
10.	REQUEST FOR	document(s)/passport /PCC back to	wil	ll not be returned over the unter? Additionally, in cases	documents/passport via Courier is a mandatory
	PROPOSAL	applicants via Courier	wh	nere an applicant chooses not	deliverable to be provided by
	(RFP)	service, in a secured manner as per	wh	utilize the courier service, nat responsibilities will the	the SP, with the option for the applicant to collect
	Point: 7 (VIII), Page 35	standards prescribed by the Mission/Posts		rvice Provider (SP) be quired to fulfill.	passport/document from ICACs

17.	Chapter VIII – Service standards (a), Page 47	The SP shall ensure a high level of service standards with regard to the facilities and amenities in the ICAC, for efficient processing of cases so that the turnaround time is less than 30 minutes and customer satisfaction is maximized	With the SP required to provide services of Form Filling (3 minutes), Photocopy (30 secs), Photograph (1 minute), Courier (1min 30 secs) a total of 6 minutes additional per applicant will be required in order to provide all the services excluding the application processing time and waiting time. The mission should reconsider the pricing model as this will lead to huge waiting time and also this pricing model suggests that every applicant would need to avail all services irrespective of their choice.	May pl Annexure-I all-inclusiv Fee to be qu	e sing	gular	RFP – Service
18.	CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Point: 6	The Mission wishes to engage a single SP to collect consular applications, with the applicable fees, along with prescribed documents for processing the applications as specified by the Mission/Post(s) from the applicant to be received in person as well as by	Kindly elaborate the process of receiving application by mail.	It is explain	ied in I	RFP	

		mail/courier on its behalf, deliver them to the Mission/Post and subsequently return the processed documents/ passports to the applicants securely and expeditiously		
19.	CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Point: 5, Page 5	Chip Enabled passport	In the event of the rollout of chip-enabled e-passport services by the Ministry – Please confirm, Is the SP allowed to consider the significant increase in volumes due to the rollout of chip enabled passports during the period of the contract.	The bidder has to anticipate on this and quote Service fee accordingly
20.	CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Point: 6, Page 5	Chip Enabled passport	Will the SP be allowed to provision the increase in number of applications for its financial calculations to determine the service fees.	The bidder has to anticipate on this and quote the rate accordingly
21.	CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF WORK AND	The SP is required to set up a new Indian Consular Application Center (ICAC).	We understand that the successful bidder has to setup entirely new Indian Consular	RFP provision remains as published

22.	DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED Point: 11(a) CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED Point: 11(a)	The SP is required to set up a new Indian Consular Application Center (ICAC).	Application Center in the country of operation. Considering the confidentiality of data and the ease of expects coming to ICAC, we request you to kindly do not consider the setting up of ICAC in a facility where there is any other Visa Application center is operating as joint Visa Center as this will leads to confusion and kiosk for Indian Citizens and other visa applicants who seek quality service with friendly sand safe ICAC environment. We request you to kindly consider that the incumbent service provider in the region will not be allowed to propose the same infrastructure for setting up of ICAC as this will leads to a drastic change in the cost incurred by the other bidders for setting up of ICAC including deployment of civil infra in that region.	SP is required to set up an entirely new ICAC having new premises, civil infrastructure (including Chairs, tables and furnishings) and IT infrastructure (including desktops, workstations, POS, token machines etc) and other necessary equipment's/facilities/ utilities.

				The marks for the proposed ICAC will be assigned based on the relative quality of offers submitted by bidders, as per the technical evaluation Proforma- Part III of the Annexure-J.
23.	Chapter XV: SELECTION OF BIDDERS AWARD OF CONTRACT: B Stage 2	Bidder shall quote the Service Fee as per deliverables of the RFP including digitization and indexation of documents, enrolment of fingerprint biometrics, facial Biometric capture, and provision of four Application Facilitating Services viz, photocopying, photographs, Form filling, and Courier Services	 We request you to kindly provide the basis of the financial bid Evaluation as there is no criteria mentioned nor a scoring format or any formulae to determine L1. It is essential that a detailed breakdown of all facilitation services, including SMS, be provided to determine the final service fee. This will help ensure that there is no predatory pricing. We kindly request that the Mission and 	fee per application as quoted in

			Ministry consider this	
			approach to ensure a level	
			playing field for all	
			participating companies.	
			We request you to please clarify the basis for removing the financial viability clause from the tender. This change could potentially lead to predatory pricing and negatively impact	
0.4	01	D	service standards.	A
24.	Chapter VII – Scope of work and deliverables Clause G.	Return of documents to the applicants sub clause (ii)	If an applicant opts for the collection of documents/passport/PCC from ICAC, the SP shall ensure that the document/passport has been handed over / delivered to the applicant or his/her authorized representative – In this scenario if the applicant insist on claiming a refund on the courier charges what is the SP supposed to inform the applicant. This clause is a conflict to the clause in Chapter 1 clause 8 (Viii). Kindly review and provide appropriate information.	As it is a singular combined fee, there is no scope of refund. It should be clearly displayed / disclosed by the successful bidder in their website / notice boards.

25.	Chapter VII – Scope of work and deliverables Clause B (vii), Page 30	The SP should mandatorily provide 4 SMS updates, at no additional cost/charges to applicants	This service has not been added as a part of service determination. Kindly confirm.	Timo to in the scope of work
26.	Chapter XI SERVICE LEVEL METRICS/ PENALTIES Clause VI sub-Clause (11)	Collection of unauthorized amounts from the applicants	There is no mention of further violations or termination of contract. Does this mean that the SP will only be charged equivalent to double the unauthorized amount collected or EUR 1000 whichever is higher, in each such case. Kindly clarify.	at the end of Chapter XI Service Level Metrics/Penalties.
27.	CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED Point O-c	The SP shall operate, on a regular basis, an exclusive submission counter at the Mission with adequate number of staff, for processing the applications of special cases.	Kindy confirm if this task be completed by the Messenger of OSP sent to the mission.	
28.	Part III: TECHNICAL BID EVALUATION PROFORMA	Location of ICAC, Parking Facility	We understand that the scoring matrix provided under the RFP is highly subjective and purely depend upon the bidder's	figures based on conditions in RFP

			responses. However, there is no fixed number of mandatory parking, counters, manpower and other details are provided. This may lead to a confusion for new bidders who wish to participate in the tendering process. We request Hon'ble Mission to provide the equal and fair opportunity to all bidders and provide accurate figures to achieve highest scoring under each section of bid evaluation Performa (page 116-121).	
29.	CHAPTER-I: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)- 8	The Mission/Post handled approximately 60,501 no. of services/ transactions during the three years from Jan-2022 to Dec-2024	Can you provide a breakdown of the given counts based on different locations?	
30.	CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED	SP shall provide space/ working station for officials of the Mission for attestation or other services as decided by the Mission.	Is the required workstation for officials intended for the public dealing area or the back-office area? Please clarify.	It will be in the Back Office Area

31.	1 A. Dealing with Applicants and Documents CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF WORK AND DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED 1 A. Dealing with	City 2- Marseille Min Area of ICAC in sq.mt- 25	A 25-square-metre space is too small to fit all the mentioned counters and the waiting area. Please clarify.	Please go by RFP
32.	Applicants and Documents xi-(a) CHAPTER VII: SCOPE OF	The SP shall also maintain a maximum	Does the 30-minute TAT include Application Facilitating Services	30-minute turnaround time is the standard requirement for
	WORK AND DELIVERABLE S REQUIRED 1 B. Acceptance and forwarding of application to Mission/Post (x)-(b)	turnaround time of 30 minutes for any applicant from token generation to acceptance of application and payment at the counter of ICAC.	such as photographs, form filling, photocopying, etc.?	the processing of applications, which includes capturing photographs and providing photocopies as well. Separate time could be considered for Form filling if required.

33.	CHAPTER XV: SELECTION OF BIDDERS/ AWARD OF CONTRACT (II) Financial Bid Evaluation: (e)	The Lowest Financial Bid (L1) will be determined based on the Service Fee quoted by the bidders, as per Annexure-K of this RFP. The bidder who has quoted the lowest 'Service Fee' will be ranked as L1 and the contract will be awarded to the L1.	Is there a process in place to evaluate the financial figures quoted by the bidder? Additionally, does the MEA have any guidelines or viability criteria to assess whether a financial bid is abnormally low or high?	L1 will be decided as per singular service fee quoted as per Annexure K
34.				
35.	Chapter III Point No. xii, Page No. 10 EMD and other Bank Guarantees (BGs) can be furnished through	Chapter III Point No. xii, Page No. 10 EMD and other Bank Guarantees (BGs) can be furnished through SWIFT (including e-Bank guarantee)	Details of the Embassy Bank account duly mentioning Account No / Address of Bank / Details of swift / IBAN	The relevant bank details will be shared with the companies that have submitted organizational profiles with the Mission and will separately ask for it by email

	SWIFT				
	(including				
	e-Bank				
	guarantee)				
36.	Chapter XIV,	Chapter XIV, Page No.	Kindly advise	how many	One copy of the technical bid
	Page No. 68	68	original and copi	es of technical	should be original and three
	Point No. 1(ii)	Point No. 1(ii)	bid are required.		copies could be in duplicate.
	Envelop 2: A	Envelop 2: A separate			
	separate closed	closed envelope			
	envelope	containing the			
	containing the	Technical Bid			
	Technical Bid	comprising of Bid			
	comprising of	Cover Letter and			
	Bid Cover	Declaration (Annex-F),			
	Letter and	Mandatory Eligibility			
	Declaration	Criteria (Annex-D),			
	(Annex-F),	Technical Bid			
	Mandatory	(Annex-J) and a			
	Eligibility	Declaration by the			
	Criteria	Bidder (Annex-E). All			
	(Annex-D),	these annexures			
	Technical Bid	should be duly filled in			
	(Annex-J) and	Four Copies of			
	a Declaration	technical bid. To be			
	by the Bidder	enclosed.			
	(Annex-E). All				
	these				
	annexures				
	should be duly				
	filled in Four				

37.	Copies of technical bid. To be enclosed. As per Chapter VII point No xi page No 21 in Note under point © SP shall also operate on a regular basis, an exclusive submission	As per Chapter VII point No xi page No 21 in Note under point © SP shall also operate on a regular basis, an exclusive submission counter each at the Mission in Paris and Post in Marseille with adequate number of staff for processing of	Please share an estimate or indication as to how many counters and staff will be required.	Generally one counter with one staff will work under normal circumstances; however, there may arise exigencies, when the number of counters, as well as staff including back-office staff may have to be increased based on requirements.
38.	counter each at the Mission in Paris and Post in Marseille with adequate number of staff for processing of applications. Chapter VII Page no. 23, point no.(vii) Postal Application	Chapter VII Page no. 23, point no.(vii) Postal Application	Kindly share details of applications received in person and received by post / courier at each ICAC.	Embassy does not have this information

39.	Chapter X Page No 45 point No 1(i) The SP shall provide a Bank Guarantee in Euro for the Govt funds held by SP.	Chapter X Page No 45 point No 1(i) The SP shall provide a Bank Guarantee in Euro for the Govt funds held by SP.	Kindly advise amount for the same.	Details will be provided bidder who is awarde contract, at the time of s of Agreement.	d the
40.	Chapter VII Page No. 25, Point No. xii (a) The SP shall provide an efficient and courteous telephonic enquiry	Chapter VII Page No. 25, Point No. xii (a) The SP shall provide an efficient and courteous telephonic enquiry system through Toll-free numbers / Voice Over Internet Protocol	Please provide number of calls / emails received for planning of call center.	The following table shorelevant numbers for the from July 24 to Dec provided by the present provider:	period 24, as
	system through Toll-free numbers / Voice Over Internet Protocol			Months No of of 2024 Calls received received d July 1251 1017 Aug 1082 1152	

				Sept	1134	1013	1
				Oct	1091	1135	1
				Nov	1037	1174	1
				Dec	1289	1204	1
					•		1
41.	Chapter XIV Page No 68 point No 1(iv) The proposal must contain the information required by the RFP, in original, signed.	Chapter XIV Page No 68 point No 1(iv) The proposal must contain the information required by the RFP, in original, signed.	Can the BID docs be signed by DSC or physical signatures are reqd.	Physical	signatu	re is require	ed
42.	General Query	General Query	Will there be a single Service fee for Consular / Passport / Visa / OCI / PCC / Surender Certificate / GEP Verification Services / Misc Attestation.	YES			
43.	Chapter V Point No 1(x) page No 16	Chapter V Point No 1(x) page No 16	Kindly clarify from whom the said certificate is to be provided?	will	have	Service Prov to su in this rega	bmit

	The Bidding Company must provide certificate that its operations are compliant with local laws and relevant tax regime.	The Bidding Company must provide certificate that its operations are compliant with local laws and relevant tax regime.		
44.	Chapter VII Point No 1(T), page No 38 Consular Camps	Chapter VII Point No 1(T), page No 38 Consular Camps	How many consular camp be conducted during a cal year	
45.	Annexure H page No 98 Note 1 Bidder should ensure that the seal and Code No of the signatory is put by the bankers before submission of BG.	Annexure H page No 98 Note 1 Bidder should ensure that the seal and Code No of the signatory is put by the bankers before submission of BG.	e-Bank guarantee) affixing of bank seal i possible. Pls clarify on the	will be accepted as per banking norms. same.
46.	Annexure H page No 98 Note 2	Annexure H page No 98 Note 2 Stamp paper is required for BG issued	Since the BG can be furn through SWIFT (included) e-Bank guarantee) hence	uding will be accepted as per banking

47.	Stamp paper is required for BG issued by the Banks located in India. Annexure J, Part iii	by the Banks located in India. Annexure J, Part iii Page no: 115, Point 9	paper requirement does not exist. Pls clarify on the same. Please advise whether non-GOI clients have to be other foreign	It can be reputed companies including foreign governments.
	Page no: 115, Point 9 Reputation of the bidding company in the market and quality of non-GOI client	l	governments giving the service of visa outsourcing services or it can be any commercial companies in India like travel agents or logistic companies with whom we have dealings.	
48.	Please provide break -up of applications count categorized by Mission and post-wise.		Please provide break -up of applications count categorized by Mission and post-wise.	This information is not available
