



Mekong River Commission
For Sustainable Development

RESPONSE TO BID CLARIFICATION
RFP 2021-004

Consultancy Services for Implementation medium and long-range flood and drought forecasting at the RFDMC
Version 02

Ref	Question	Response
1	<p>Q1. In Section III, Part 11, 1st point: An international organization, scientific research centre, or well-known service provider in hydro-meteorological field or climatological science with at least 20 years of work experience.</p> <p>And In Section IV, Part 1, 1.3: 15 years of international experience in river hydrology, hydraulics, and river geomorphology; especially in flood and drought modeling development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does this mean as an organization has to qualify in both aspects right? or only need to qualify in only the TECHNICAL EVALUATION CRITERIA part Section 4? 	<p>For the organizations, at least 20 years of work experience is clear enough (actually, the specific organizations like this have very long year of experiences; >30 years.</p> <p>For the individual experts/consultants of those organizations can be 15 years</p>
2	<p>Q2. Does the relevant data for the modelling work (e.g river cross-section...) is available and can be obtained from MRC for this study?</p>	<p>The ground data from MRC MCs; while the satellite data, relevant models/tools could be provided/developed by the organization</p>
3	<p>Q3. Could you provide us with more detail on the study area and river extent (e.g LMB, length, point start and end) for the reference of our understanding?</p>	<p>The LMB; all mainstream and its tributaries</p>
4	<p>The tender procedures on page 6 state: 'Proposals that exceed the indicated budget shall be rejected before any further evaluation.' – however, the indicated budget is not given in the document. Could you please indicate the available budget, or point us where we can find this information?</p>	<p>We could not provide you the budget, due to, this process of Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)</p> <p>As we mention in the evaluation criteria 70% technical proposal and 30 Financial proposals</p>

5	<p>On page p 10 (under section 6 “Required tasks and responsibilities”) it is mentioned to “Develop one benchmark for mid-long-term forecasts of the flow to evaluate the performance of this forecasting in operation tasks in the RFDMC in the future”. Can the goal of this service be clarified in more detail?</p>	<p>Goals of Benchmark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To evaluate the quality of the forecast result (accuracy - good forecast, fair forecast, or bad forecast). • Based on the results of the forecast may find what/where parameters/locations need improvement to improve the forecast in the system and guidance forecasters. • Current benchmarks (two versions: old & new) can be found at http://ffw.mrcmekong.org/reportflood.php; it is indicated in the weekly situation reports • The old benchmark wasn’t official update for long time; the new ones developed internally based on a researching case (RFDMC will provide later for selected PAOR); • The updated benchmark for short term forecast; and the benchmark for medium-, long-range forecast/outlook will be required.
6	<p>On Page 13 in the table with Technical Evaluation Criteria a total core of 60 is assigned to “Quality of key personnel”. However, there are no details provided with respect to international and riparian/national experts. Is there any more specific information on key personnel for firms applying this call? We believe that riparian/national key-personnel will be very useful during 2nd testing at National Centers (NCs) in Member Countries (MCs).</p>	<p>We focus on international firm with international experts only.</p>
7	<p>Which are the National Centers (NCs) in MCs? Are these the National Hydrological and Meteorological Services (NHMS) in the MCs, or are these other entities such as the National Mekong Committees (NMCs)?</p>	<p>National Line Agencies/office who are doing on forecasting operation in MCs. NHMS is an example. MCs will have different levels of national centers (for the northern, southern, highland, central...). Actually, they are a part of National Line Agencies. NMC is coordination organization at each MC doing coordination arm between the MRCS and MC.</p>
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<p>9</p>	<p>The 1st testing will be done with RFDMC, however, for the 2nd testing with NCs in MCs it is not clear whether the selected firm is to install the whole modeling system at NCs (replicating what is in the RFDMC) or the testing is done only with forecast information/warnings coming from RFDMC to fine tune the modeling system at RFDMC?</p>	<p>RFDMC is the regional centre, thus, it is the main office that the model/system is to be installed and well connect with NCs. We might get some recommendations or suggestions from the national centres then we need to adjust the model/system.</p> <p>MCs will have their own tools/models/systems for their forecasting tasks at national areas; while the MRC-RFDMC works at the regional level (for river flow monitoring and forecasting are on mainstream only). For coming medium-, long-range forecasts/outlooks, these could be cover the MC’s interests. However, should look at the clear link between the MRC-RFDMC tools/models/systems with current MC’s ones; some additional supports will be required for MCs at different levels/interests (Some NCs are at high technical equipment, while others may not). We don’t provide new stand-alone system for MCs. Just support for MCs make use of the regional systems</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Historical meteorological and hydrological data from NHMSs in MCs for analysis, to calibrate and validate hydrological models will be required. Will RFDMC provide these historical data for calibration and validation? How long (timeseries) and for how many stations (spatial location) these historical meteorological and hydrological data are available? Is this data available free of charge?</p>	<p>Base on the methodology of the outlook system/model from consults; clarify what kind of data and how long (time-series) need. Then based on the data-sharing role of the MRC, RFDMC will share the historical database (including time-series) which have in hand. Actually, RFDMC will provide historical data, including 127 stations of rainfall and 63 stations of water level in the LMB.</p>

11	There is no specific format provided for technical proposal preparation and CVs. Are there any specific formats available for these?	There is no specific format for proposal and, thus, MRC will evaluate on the technical report by the consultant or firm. Therefore, PAOR is advised to prepare very much in detail their technical proposal indicating the strong capacities that will result in the best services. Submission form in the RFP.
12	Is it necessary to include risk levels/potential actions in the Outlooks (3-6 months) or just severity level of floods and droughts, as RFDMC is not directly issuing alerts and warnings to at risk communities (as that is the responsibility of NCs in MCs)?	RFDMC will provide outlooks information to MCs. We hope to analyze both potential risks and severity of flood and drought. But it depends on the capacity of the model. Include those in the outlook are high appreciation. RFDMC is not directly issuing the alert & warning but those information for NLAs of MCs to consider/make reference for issuing the alert/warning
13	1 st task is only for improving 1-month flood forecasts. Does this mean the consulting firm only need to improve flood forecasting system to integrate into existing FEWS for disseminating forecast information (water levels and flow data) to member countries (MCs)?	If you can do that, that's fine, but the process of developing and upgrading the FEWS must ensure that don't interrupt the routine work on forecasting operations at our center. Otherwise, it is possible to develop a separate tool/system to perform the task of long-term and long-term forecasting. The existing is set for 7 days forecasting based on rainfall 7 days forecast. In case 1 month flood forecast in developed, it is need to associate with the FEWS, for updating forecast rainfall capability and so on. Other advices from PAOR will be considered if they have better ones.
14	If the COVID-19 continues in the Mekong region, the 1 st testing, 2 nd testing and training/capacity building may need to be conducted online. How good facilities (such as internet, seating, infrastructure) are there at the NCs in the MCs?	The centre is equipped with the latest technology of telecommunication which allows us conduct virtual trainings efficiently and effectively.