

**Ministry of Finance** Republic of Maldives

**Terms of Reference (ToR)**

for

**OPERATIONS OF A TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) CENTER WITH STUDENT ACCOMMODATION AT R.ALIFUSHI**

TES/2023/NC-001

**Issued by:**

National Tender

Ministry of Finance

Republic of Maldives

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Ministry of Finance

Male’, Maldives

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| (IUL)13-K/13/2023/89 | Reference Number: |

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

1. The Ministry of Finance (MoF) on behalf of Ministry of Higher Education invites interested proponents to indicate their interest for the following works.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Procurement Number** | **Procurement Name** |
| TES/2023/NC-001 | Operations of a state-of-the-art Technical and Vocation Educational and Training (TVET) center at R.Alifushi |

1. A more detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Projects will be available on the Ministry’s website **www.finance.gov.mv** from **28th February 2023**. Interested proponents may obtain further information by writing to the address below. It is the proponent’s responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this Request for Expression of Interest.
2. The Employer will prepare a short list of proponents based on the Expression of Interest (EOI)’s and detailed Request for Proposal (RFP) will be released to the shortlisted parties.
3. The Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **13:00:00 hours local time on 27th March 2023.**
4. Proponents may obtain further information from the following address:

National Tender,

Ministry of Finance,

Ameenee Magu, Malé, Maldives,

Tel: (960) 3349102, (960)3349147

E-Mail: [ibrahim.aflah@finance.gov.mv](mailto:ibrahim.aflah@finance.gov.mv)

Copy to: [tender@finance.gov.mv](mailto:tender@finance.gov.mv)

# Section 2– Specific Information

**1. Introduction:**

The Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Ministry Higher Education invites interested proponents to indicate their interest for the management and operation of a TVET Center with Student Accommodation Facility at R. Alifushi.

This announcement outlines the objectives of issuing this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) and the process for review and evaluation of applications received under this announcement.

**2. Scope of the Project:**

Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Projects will be available on the Ministry’s website **www.finance.gov.mv** from **28th February 2023**. Interested proponents may obtain further information by writing to the address below. It is the proponent’s responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this Request for Expression of Interest

**3. Purpose and Process of REOI**

The purpose of issuing the REOI is to gauge the interest of the private sector in the management and operations of the project outlined herein through applicant’s private financing without any recourse to the government, and obtain information on terms at which interested applicants may be open to carry out the project.

Ministry of Finance will review the submissions received under this REOI and shortlist parties with demonstrated financial and technical capacity based on the Eligibility Criteria stipulated in **Clause 4**.

Ministry of Finance may approach applicants during the review stages for clarification or queries. All such communication will be in written form.

Ministry of Finance will depend on documentation submitted, in reviewing and shortlisting of applicants. It is the responsibility of the applicant to submit all the necessary information and documentation noted in this REOI.

The submissions received under this REOI may be used by the Ministry to gauge the level of private sector interest in delivery of the project under a FO PPP structure.

Only those applicants who have submitted an EOI and are shortlisted as per the provisions of this announcement shall be allowed to participate in any subsequent stages of the project as decided by the Ministry, and shall be as per the terms and conditions that may be specified in such Request for Proposal document

MoF reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason thereto.

**4. Eligibility Criteria**

These criteria comprise general criteria related to:

* Legal Exclusion Criteria (based on Form I)
* Financial Minimum Criteria (Form II), and
* Technical & Operational Minimum Criteria (Form III).

**4.1 Legal exclusion criteria**

* Bidders (either single bidders or all consortium members) must not be in bankruptcy or liquidation proceedings.
* Neither the Bidder, nor any connected person, has been convicted of fraud, corruption, collusion, or money laundering, or for a criminal act involving dishonesty, physical violence or harm to human life, nor is the subject to credible and/or persistent allegations related to, or is under investigation for, such criminal activities.
* There exists no conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest arising from prior or existing contracts, agreements or relationships which affects or could affect its or (upon formation) the Concessionaire’s (as applicable) potential involvement in the Project, including any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest which arises from a relationship between:
  + it or its directors, employees, consultants or advisers, and
  + any Government Ministry, department, agency or body or their officials or employees which has or have direct or indirect influence in the scope or manner of execution of the Project, or the conduct of the EOI Process,
* where such a relationship can give rise to reasonable concerns about the impartiality (in relation to it) of the EOI process.
* The Bidder has no tax liabilities or liabilities in respect of judgements awarded by any court or similar proceedings in the period of three years prior to the date of the REOI, save in each case to the extent that such liabilities are the subject of bona fide disputes for which it has made a suitable accounting provision for such liabilities in accordance with applicable accounting regulations.
* Neither the Bidder, nor any connected person, has previously been barred from participation in a bid or other public procurement process in Maldives or has any contract terminated by any public entity or authority inside or outside of Maldives for breach by such Prospective Bidder or Consortium Member.

**4.2 Financial minimum criteria**

Bidders must show that they have sufficient financial capacity to start-up the facility. Bidder must have adequate financial ability to equip and furnish the facility, including any pre-operational works of TVET Center to conduct the specialized programs. Bidders must therefore submit the most recent consolidated financial statement(s). A Bidder is deemed to have sufficient financial capacity, when the following criteria are met:

(1) Solvency after investment exceeds [0.2], as calculated by the following formula:

Financial Minimum Criteria Total Equity

(Total Assets + 1 million USD)

> [0.2ʹ]

(2) The profit, EBITDA and operational free cash flow of the last three years were positive2.

Further, the Bidders must declare, that since the publishing of the latest financial statement, the Bidder’ situation has not materially changed, such that the criteria will not be met in the financial statements of the current and subsequent financial years.

Finally, the Bidder must declare that the Bidder has, to date, not engaged in commitments to the extent to which such commitments might affect the Bidder’s ability to finance or complete the Project. In case of a Consortium, the Consortium Members shall collectively satisfy the financial minimum

criteria.

**4.3 Technical criteria**

The evaluation of the Bidders’ Technical Criteria will be carried out based on the Bidders’ operating experience in the education sector and campus/institute infrastructure development. Bidders must demonstrate sufficient technical and operational experience as below

 **Operational Experience:**

 The Lead Member shall currently operate in compliance with Good Industry Practice and has operated for a minimum of one (1) previous consecutive year(s): at least 1 educational institute with a minimum of 100 candidates.



**5. Submission Requirements**

The EOI submitted shall consist of the following:

1. Name, title address and telephone number of the Investor or Principal who will serve as the Lead

Member for this project.

2. Details of the individual firm, company or consortium, including company profile, expertise and resource capacity.

3. Documents confirming the eligibility of the Bidder, including but not limited to Form I, Form II and Form III.

4. Copies of Annual Audited Financial Accounts of the applicant for the latest three financial years (stamped by the Company).

Any clarifications to the REOI may be sent to below given mail addresses **on or before 13th March, 2023** at **1330 hours**. The Ministry will provide written responses to all of the queries submitted by interested parties on or prior to the deadline for submission of queries.

National Tender,

Ministry of Finance,

Ameenee Magu, Malé, Maldives,

Tel: (960) 3349102, (960)3349147

E-Mail: [ibrahim.aflah@finance.gov.mv](mailto:ibrahim.aflah@finance.gov.mv)

Copy to: [tender@finance.gov.mv](mailto:tender@finance.gov.mv)

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the above address (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **13:00:00 hours Maldivian time on March 27, 2023**. The EOI should contain at least the information specified in this REOI and Terms of Reference.

**Annex I –List of Definitions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bidder | An entity, or a Consortium of entities ultimately with the objective of obtaining the Concession Agreement for the TVET Center |
| Finance-operate (FO) | Finance-operate means a project delivery method in which a company enters into a single contract for finance and operation of a Facility over a contractually defined term. No public funds shall be appropriated to pay for any part of the services provided by the Concessionaire during the Agreement period except as provided in the Request for Proposals and Public-Private Agreement. |
| Agreement Term | The period during which the Concession Agreement is in force |
| Consortium | Two or more separate legal entities who formally join for the purpose of submitting a Proposal for the Transaction, each of whom is jointly and severally responsible for performing the obligations under the Concession Agreement. |
| Form | Any form attached in Annex III of the REOI that must be submitted by the Prospective Bidder as an integral part of the EOI. |
| TVET Center | The concession area, including the campus and service areas, comprising library, class rooms, auditorium, sports center, ICT Lab, Student Service Center, Technical and Vocational Training Centers and Laboratories, Academic Staff Area, Administrative Areas, Student services and student lodging facilities. The concession area is to be managed and operated by the Project Company in R.Alifushi, Maldives or both, under Finance and Operate (FO) Public Private Partnership Model Agreement. |
| Lead Member | Entity which, pursuant to any applicable law, legally and fully represents and irrevocably binds all Consortium members in all matters connected with the Tender Procedure and any related transactions between Parties. The Lead Member of the Consortium has at least 51% of shares in the consortium joint venture and shall assume responsibility for the operation of the TVET Center with Accommodation Block |
| MoHE | Ministry of Higher Education that is responsible for overseeing the project as well as implementation of the policies related to higher education. |
| Project Information Sheet | The document issued by MoF/MoHE during the REOI Phase, providing Bidders with information on this Tender Procedure and the Transaction. |
| EOI | The entire set of documents submitted by the Prospective Bidder in response to the Request for Expression of Interest. |
| Request For Expression of Interest(REOI) | The announcement made by the Ministry of Finance inviting interested proponents to indicate their interest for the of a TVET Center with Student Accommodation at R.Alifushi under Finance and Operate (BFO) Public Private Partnership Model. |
| Request For Proposal (RFP) | The document issued by Ministry of Finance and supplied to shortlisted Bidders to submit a Proposal for the Transaction. |

**Annex II –Project Information Sheet (Attached Separately)**

**Annex III - Forms**

**Form I: Exclusion Criteria / Process Statement**

The Process Statement is a declaration dictated by the MoHE, which every Bidder must sign and submit, together with the EOI. The process statement contains various declarations by the Bidder, which relate to the process but which are not relevant to the assessment of the Bidder’s EOI. However, the Bidder fail to produce a process statement or make changes to it, this could result in exclusion.

**1 Bankruptcy, moratorium, merger, take-over and other ‘change of control’**

1.1 The Bidder agrees to notify the MoHE at the earliest of any changes in the enterprise which are relevant to its continued existence. This involves, at all events, filing for bankruptcy or moratorium, declaration of bankruptcy or moratorium, a merger, take-over (both taking over and being taken over) and other changes of control.

1.2 The Bidder agrees that MoHE may exclude him from the Tender Procedure if drastic changes occur in the Bidder’s enterprise. The Bidder agrees that the agreement made between the Bidder and MoHE will, in such a case, be transferred to the Bidder Enterprise on completion of the merger, the take-over or other change of control. This decision is at the discretion of the MoHE.

**2 In earnest and in good faith**

2.1 The Bidder declares that he will take part in the Tender Procedure in earnest and in good faith and thereby adhere closely to the rules and requirements prescribed by the MoHE.

**3 Terms and Conditions**

3.1 The Bidder accepts irrevocably the terms and conditions of the Request for Expression of Interest without reserves.

**4 General Provisions**

4.1 The words and terms starting with a capital letter are definitions. The definitions in this statement have the same meaning as in the Request for Expression of Interest.

4.2 This statement is subject to Maldivian law. Maldivian Courts shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to settle all disputes arising out of or in connection with this statement.

**5 Other Statement by the Bidder**

I, the undersigned, authorized to sign on behalf of [Insert Bidder’s Name here] having its principal offices at [insert address here] and registration number [ registration number here], declare that the Bidder

5.1 Has not been found guilty of an offence which raises doubts about the professional integrity of the Bidder, its shareholders, or member(s).

5.2 Has met its obligations with regards to the payment of social security contributions or taxes, in accordance with the legal requirements in the country in which it is established; and

5.3 Has not been guilty of making false statements in the provision of information, including statements made for the purpose of application and the information submitted on the basis thereof.

5.4 Has not been found guilty or suspected or investigated for engaging in any money laundering, corruption or bribery activities by any competent body in its jurisdiction

Signed [place], [date] Stamp

Name of Authorized Representative: [name]

Signature of Authorized Representative: [signature]

**Form II: Financial Minimum Criteria**

The undersigned declares on the basis of the enclosed consolidated audited financial statement(s), that the Bidder has the financial capacity to conduct the investments for TVET Center with student accommodation block. This declaration is sustained by:

The result of the following formula, which shows that solvency after investment exceeds [0.2]:

[Fill in Total Equity]

([Fill in Total Assets] + 1 million USD) = [Fill in result]

The profit, EBITDA and operational free cash flow of the last three years were positive4.

Further, the undersigned declares that since the publishing of the latest financial statement, the Bidder’s situation have not materially changed, such that the criteria will not be met in the financial statements of the current and subsequent financial years.

Finally, the undersigned declares that the Bidder has, to date, not engaged in commitments to the extent to which such commitments might affect the Bidder’s ability to finance or complete the project.

The audited financial statements of the three most recent financial years have been enclosed for your convenience.

Signed [place], [date] Stamp

Name of Authorized Representative: [name]

Signature of Authorized Representative: [signature]

3 Both Total Equity and Total Assets will be expressed in USD, using the IMF Historic Exchange Rate for the relevant currency, as of the date of publication of the financial statement. The relevant exchange rates may be found through: [Exchange Rate Archives by Month (imf.org)](https://www.imf.org/external/np/fin/data/param_rms_mth.aspx)

4 MoF resves the right to admit Candidates that can provide a convincing explanation for a negative profit, EBITDA or operational free cashflow

**Form III Technical and Operational Minimum Criteria – Project Experience**

Bidders must show a proven track record of their relevant experience in development projects and or operating educational institutions. The Bidders are requested to fill in Form III for all the Bidder’s institutes in its portfolio. For avoidance of doubt, a separate form should be filled per each Educational Institute and or each development project undertaken**.**

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| **Higher Education Operational Experience** | |
| **Name of the institute** | *Name of the organization* |
| **Description** | *[Maximum 100 words, identifying the responsibilities whether it involves development only or development and operations, business model utilized, number and name of Institutes/schools etc.]* |
| **Address / Location** | *Street address/ country* |
| **Institute throughputs (per year)** | *Average no. of students graduating/completing programs per year for all years in operation* |
| **No of years in operation** |  |
| **Description of technical specifications of the Institute** | [*Use a maximum of 200 words to describe the educational institute, services/courses offered, building area, length, width, gross-floor area, student capacity in classrooms etc.]* |
| **Other services / business areas in the institutes** | *Business support services provide by the institute* |

Signed [place], [date] Stamp

Name of Authorized Representative: [name]

Signature of Authorized Representative: [signature]