REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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<th>Procurement Number:</th>
<th>ASIA2020BRM3o</th>
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<td>Open Date:</td>
<td>August 12, 2020</td>
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<td>Questions Deadline:</td>
<td>August 19, 2020</td>
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<td>Closing Deadline:</td>
<td>August 26, 2020</td>
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<td>Geographical Area Restrictions:</td>
<td>937</td>
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<td>Point of Contact:</td>
<td>Jack Needles, <a href="mailto:jneedles@iri.org">jneedles@iri.org</a></td>
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Background
The International Republican Institute (IRI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, organization dedicated to advancing freedom and democracy worldwide. Since 1983, IRI has worked to develop democratic institutions and ideals, carrying out a variety of international programs to promote freedom, self-government, and the rule of law worldwide. IRI provides technical assistance in the areas of political party strengthening, developing civic institutions and open elections, promoting democratic governance and advancing the rule of law.

Having received funding from USAID for its Strengthening Elections and Political Transition in Burma (SEPT) project IRI seeks to contract a local organization to conduct logistics, event set-up, carry out the community participant recruitment process and conduct and moderate four townhall discussion events in Mandalay Region. The contractor will be responsible for planning and implementing four town halls in the target Region. The town halls afford constituents the opportunity to discuss their priority policy issues with newly-elected officials and to understand the elected officials’ stances on key issues. IRI will work with the contractor to incorporate public opinion polling data into the town halls to maintain participants’ focus on constituent priorities. IRI will use the issues raised during the townhalls to assist recently elected officials develop issue-based policies which are responsive to constituent concerns following the 2020 general election.

Period of Performance
Date of signature-January 31, 2021

Statement of Work
IRI expects that the contracted organization will:
-Identify appropriate locations and dates, in coordination with IRI, to hold four constituency level dialogues in Ayeyarwaddy Region following the 2020 General Election.

-Immediately following the selection of locations, conduct the logistics and coordination to set up four half-day constituent dialogues focused on local issues in Mandalay Region which meet international standards in terms of coordination, communication and content.
Organization of the event will include:

1) Securing the venue for 50-100 participants:
   a. Reserving and setting up the venue
   b. Supplying equipment, including a public address system, projector, camera, chairs for participants and space for media
   c. Printing and providing name tents for the participating political party representatives and candidates
   d. Organizing two refreshment breaks with water to be provided to participants
   e. Securing the required permissions to hold the event from local authorities

2) Identifying and inviting participants and recently elected officials. This could include but is not limited to:
   a. Identifying the areas from which community members will be recruited
   b. Sending out invitations to community participants either through written invitations, announcements on radio or social media, or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, date, time and location of the town hall
   c. Working with township level Union Election Commission (UEC) to identify recently elected officials in the township and surrounding areas
   d. Ensuring that identified speakers represent a diversity of perspectives, will contribute meaningfully to the town hall and will support the event in proceeding smoothly
   e. Sending invitations to speak to recently elected officials either through written invitations or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, the party and/or candidate’s expected role in the town hall
   f. Sending invitations to media outlets to cover the town hall either through written invitations or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, date, time and location of the town hall
   g. Sending invitations to special interest groups either through written invitations or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, date, time and location of the town hall
   h. When appropriate, sending invitations to the appropriate township level officials to make remarks at the beginning of the town hall either through written invitations or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, their expected role in the town hall, date, time and location of the town hall. The contractor will coordinate with IRI to determine when UEC representation is appropriate.
   i. As part of the process to receive the required permissions from the relevant local authorities (i.e.), sending invitations to the local authorities through written invitations or communications via mobile phone that include the purpose, date, time and location of the town hall

3) Cooperating with IRI to consider:
   a. How to incorporate public opinion research into the dialogue
   b. How to identify a suitable moderator
   c. How to incorporate party/candidate representatives into the town hall dialogues
   d. Town hall content and local issue focus areas

4) Conducting and moderating four half-day community town hall dialogues

5) Disseminating the discussion through social media recordings of the conversations at the Town Hall, including boosting of the posts to specific target audiences and tagging relevant IRI and USAID social accounts in the posts, where possible
6) Disseminating travel stipends to town hall participants traveling from outside the town where the town hall is taking place
7) In a case where high-level officials from out of town are participating in the town hall, the contractor is responsible for booking and paying for the accommodations of those individuals
8) Book and pay for the accommodations of the newly-elected officials who will be speaking at the town hall
9) Following each town hall, promptly deliver a minimum of a 2-page report on each town hall dialogue conducted, which will be subject to approval by IRI. The report will include observations, key topics discussed and monitoring and evaluation data, agreed upon with IRI, collected from the activity. Deliver photos of the event, which are geo-tagged.

IRI will provide the research to be featured in the town halls and suggestions for the modalities of the town halls and how to incorporate parties into the discussion, as well as contacts of appropriate party leaders.

Technical Proposals
All proposals submitted to IRI must include:
1. Information addressing Bidder’s experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and Bidder’s proposed specific approach for providing those services to IRI under this contract, including sufficient information to determine a clear definition of services as it relates to other providers that may be involved.
2. The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the Bidder (and electronic address if available). If the Bidder is a firm, name(s) should be provided for individuals authorized to conduct business on behalf of the firm.
3. Bidders may provide a list of up to three references for work performed of a similar nature during the last three years, along with contact details. IRI may contact the references to evaluate past performance.
4. If the Bidder is a U.S. organization/resident, or a foreign organization/resident which has income effectively connected with the conduct of activities in the U.S. or has an office or a place of business or a fiscal paying agent in the U.S., the information submitted must contain Bidder’s Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Proposals will not exceed 10 pages (not including cover page).
6. Proposals submitted by individuals must contain the attached Expert Service Rate Form and a CV/resume.

Price Proposals
Bidders must propose a firm-fixed Unit Price for each of the deliverables identified below and in the format of the table below. The Bidder’s pricing must be valid for at least 60 (sixty) calendar days after the due date for proposal submission. The proposed Unit Price should be fixed and inclusive of all costs to perform, including inspection services, transportation, taxes, import duties (if any), and other levies. To the extent that a Bidder proposed to include any pricing not reflected in the table below, such pricing must be fully described in the proposal. Proposals must be submitted in USD, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

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<th>Unit Cost</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Publish and distribute invitations either through written invitations, announcements on radio or social media or communications via mobile phone.

Disseminate content from each townhall discussion via social media.

Submit a two-page report following each townhall which will include observations and data collected from the activity as well as geo-tagged photos of the training event.

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**Evaluation and Award Process**

1. IRI may contact any Bidder for clarification or additional information, but Bidders are advised that IRI intends to evaluate the offers based on the written proposals, without discussions, and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial proposals. IRI may but is not obligated to conduct additional negotiations with the most highly rated Bidders prior to award of a contract, and may at its sole discretion elect to issue contracts to one or more Bidders.

2. Mathematical errors will be corrected in the following manner: If a discrepancy exists between the total price proposed and the total price resulting from multiplying the unit price by the corresponding amounts, then the unit price will prevail and the total price will be corrected. If there is a discrepancy between the numbers written out in words and the amounts in numbers, then the amount expressed in words will prevail. If the Bidder does not accept the correction, the offer will be rejected.

3. IRI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or sub-line items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if IRI determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk.

4. IRI will conduct a source selection based as follows:

   IRI intends to make an award to the responsible Bidder based on the following evaluation factors:

   a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 50 percent
   b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 30 percent
   c) Price – 20 percent

   IRI intends to evaluate Bidders’ proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the program.

5. If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered in evaluating performance or price.

**Submission Instructions**
Bids must be submitted via email to Jack Needles, at jneedles@iri.org with the subject line “ASIA2020BRM3o RFP” by the deadline listed above.

RFP Terms and Conditions

1. Prospective Bidders are requested to review clauses incorporated by reference in the section “Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference”.
2. IRI may reject any or all proposals if such is within IRI’s interest.
3. Proof of costs incurred, such as but not limited to receipts, pictures and financial documents, may be requested during and for up to three years after the end of the contract period.
4. The Bidder’s initial proposal should contain the Bidder’s best offer.
5. Payment will be made upon receipt of invoices and deliverables/services.
6. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
7. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and submissions shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share proposals internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the proposals.
8. For any currency conversion, the exchange rate to US Dollars listed on oanda.com on the closing date of this solicitation shall be used.
9. Every contract will contain provisions governing termination for cause and termination for convenience.
10. By submitting a proposal, offeror agrees to comply with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to the services identified above, and will specifically identify any disagreement with or exceptions to the terms, conditions, and provisions.
11. Offerors confirm that the prices in the proposal/proposal/application/quote have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other Bidder or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
12. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the proposal submission:
   - Any close, familial, or financial relationships with IRI staff and agents. For example, the Bidder must disclose if a Bidder’s mother conducts volunteer trainings for IRI.
   - Any family or financial relationship with other Bidders submitting proposals. For example, if the Bidder’s father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the Bidder must state this.
   - Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference

IRI is required to make the contractor subject to certain flowdown clauses of the prime award. This awarded contract will incorporate one or more clauses by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were given in full text. Where “flow-down” to the contractor is applicable, references to “USAID/Department of State” shall be interpreted to mean “IRI”, “Recipient” to mean “Contractor”, and “Subrecipient” to mean “lower-tier sub contractor.” Included by reference are the applicable provisions contained in Appendix II to 2 CFR Part 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

IRI Obligations
Issuance of this RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a proposal or quotation.

**Required Certifications**
The following certificates need to be signed by all Bidders. These certifications are an integral part of the quotation/proposal. Please print them off and send back to us with your proposal after signature on each certificate. They are:

- Certification regarding debarment, suspension, ineligibility and voluntary exclusion lower tier covered transactions
- Authorized Individuals
CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

This certification implements Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension and the requirements set forth in 2.C.F.R. 180, Subpart C.”

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting the person to which this proposal is submitted.

1. By signing and submitting this proposal/application/quote, the prospective lower tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

2. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

3. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal/application/quote is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.


5. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the IRI.

6. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal/application/quote that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Covered Transactions," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions.

7. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that it is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant may decide the method and frequency by which it determines the eligibility of its principals.

8. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of a participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

9. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph 5 above, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a
person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

Signature: ____________________________
Date: ____________________________
Name: ____________________________
Title/Position: ____________________________
Entity Name: ____________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________
**Authorized Individuals**

The offeror/bidder/applicant represents that the following persons are authorized to negotiate on its behalf with IRI and to bind the recipient in connection with this procurement:

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Signature: ____________________________
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Entity Name: ____________________________