

## REQUEST FOR QUOTES

<b>Procurement Number:</b>	EURASIA2023G08o
<b>Open Date:</b>	December 1, 2023
<b>Questions Deadline:</b>	December 15, 2023
<b>Closing Deadline:</b>	January 31, 2024
<b>Geographical Area Restrictions:</b>	110, 937
<b>Point of Contact:</b>	Jessica Heyer, Program Associate <a href="mailto:georgiaelection@iri.org">georgiaelection@iri.org</a>

### 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.

IRI's work in Georgia supports the development of a multi-party political system in the country by assisting political parties in becoming more democratic and organizationally strong institutions. In order to achieve this, IRI will conduct an elections observation mission (EOM) for the October 2024 elections. Therefore, IRI-Georgia is seeking to secure an EOM Mission Director to lead the EOM and Long-Term observers (LTOs) in multiple regions throughout the country during the election period.

### Period of Performance:

May 2024 – November 2024

### Statement of Work:

- Manage planning and overall implementation of the observation mission in Georgia.
- Manage relationships and serve as key liaison with key partners, including USAID and the U.S. Embassy, the Central Election Commission (CESKO), Georgian government representatives, the Parliament of Georgia, civil society organizations, political parties, and other international and domestic observer missions.
- Provide overall program leadership, management, and technical direction of consultants, project activities such as implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation, and partner coordination. He/she also oversees program work planning, performance management, and strategic communication.

- Oversee, monitor and continuously evaluate project activities to ensure that the mission's goals are achieved, and make adjustments based on changing political circumstances and in response to needs articulated by local partners and program stakeholders.
- Inform the overall strategic direction of the observation mission and spearhead the drafting of statements, reports and any public documents released by the mission.
- Ensure compliance with USG regulations and Georgian government regulations regarding procurement rules, human resources and other administrative aspects as needed.
- Make necessary inquiries and planning and provide guidance on how to organize the logistical, administrative and security component of the election observation mission (EOM).
- Maintain communication with the CEPPS Resident Program Director in Tbilisi and IRI leadership in Washington, DC.
- Consistent and close coordination and cooperation with NDI and the domestic observation missions, in order to oversee and execute all IOM related activities before, during and after the elections.
- Any other duties as required by leadership which are relevant for EOM support or related activities.

#### ***EOM Mission Director Deliverables***

- Review summary reports submitted by LTOs.
- Develop monthly 1–2-page reports on findings about election and pre-election processes.
- Verbal consultations to assist with development of a STO deployment strategy and briefing materials.

#### **Technical Bid:**

All bids submitted to IRI must include:

1. Information addressing your experience in providing each of the services identified in the above Statement of Work and your 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);
3. Bidders shall provide contact information for a minimum of three professional references with whom the applicant has had a working relationship within the last 24-month period. IRI may contact these individuals.
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 technical bids must contain Bidder's Taxpayer Identification Number.
5. Bids will not exceed 5 pages (not including cover page), using Times New Roman font, 1" margins.
6. Attachment requirements:
  - CV/Resume

- Expert Service Rate Form provided at the end of this solicitation. IRI may contact previous clients and employers for professional references and compensation confirmation.

Price Bids must adhere to the following criteria:

IRI will pay directly (to the hotel, airline, train, etc.) for all preapproved lodging and airfare expenses for the contractors' participation in IRI activities and events. IRI will also cover transportation and interpretation services. The daily and/or hourly rates submitted should, therefore, not include an assumption of costs incurred by the contractor for travel-related expenses. All other expenses, including meals, should be included within the daily and/or hourly rates, as no other expenses will be covered or reimbursed by IRI. Bids must be submitted in USD, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

No reimbursement allowed.

Unit	Unit Price
Weekly Rate	

#### **RFQ 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 bids if such is within IRI's interest.
3. Payment will be made upon receipt of detailed invoices and deliverables/services.
4. 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.
5. The Bidder's initial bid should contain the Bidder's best offer.
6. IRI reserves the right to make multiple contracts or partial contracts if, after considering administrative burden, it is in IRI's best interest to do so.
7. Discussions with Bidders following the receipt of a bid do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by IRI.
8. IRI will hold all submissions as confidential and shall not be disclosed to third parties. IRI reserves the right to share bids internally, across divisions, for the purposes of evaluating the bids.
9. By submitting a bid, Bidder 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.
10. Bidders confirm that the prices in the bid/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.
11. By applying to this RFQ, applicant is certifying that if it is awarded a contract, none of funds payable under the resulting contract will be used to (1) procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain; (2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure; or (3) obtain the equipment, services, or

systems that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system in compliance with the National Defense Authorization Act. Covered telecommunications equipment and services mean any of the following:

- a. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- b. For the purpose of public safety, security of government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).
- c. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment.
- d. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country. (2 CFR 200.216).

12. Bidders agree to disclose as part of the bid submission:

- a. 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.
- b. Any family or financial relationship with other bidders submitting bids. For example, if the bidder's father owns a company that is submitting another bid, the bidder must state this.
- c. Any other action that might be interpreted as potential conflict of interest.

### **Evaluation and Award Process:**

1. Bids will be evaluated by IRI for compliance with administrative requirements, recent and relevant past performance and experience in performing of similar projects by the Bidder, technical capabilities and proposed technical approach, the qualifications of the personnel for the project, and price. 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 bids and reserves the right to make decisions based solely on the information provided with the initial bids. 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 were 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 bid 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 bid 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 Offeror based on the following evaluation factors:
  - a) Technical evaluation, (including technical capabilities, proposed technical approach, and personnel qualifications) – 50 percent
    - i. *Demonstrated ability to work in difficult environment under stress in a leadership role – 20 Percent.*
    - ii. *Analytical and drafting skills in English – 15 percent*
    - iii. *Cross-cultural and interpersonal skills – 15 percent*
  - b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 20 percent
  - c) Availability for duration of required term – 20 Percent
  - c) Price – 10 percent

IRI intends to evaluate Offerors' proposals in accordance with these factors and make an award to the responsible Offeror 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 Jessica Heyer, at [georgiaelection@iri.org](mailto:georgiaelection@iri.org) with the subject line "EURASIA2023G08o- RFQ" by the deadline listed above.

**IRI Obligations**

Issuance of this RFQ does not constitute a contractual commitment on the part of IRI, nor does it commit IRI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a bid.

**Notice Listing Contract Clauses Incorporated by Reference**

IRI is required to make the Bidder subject to the clauses of the prime award. The resulting agreement incorporates 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 Bidder is appropriate and applicable, references to "USAID" or "Department of State" shall be interpreted to mean "IRI", "Recipient" to mean "Contractor", and "Subrecipient" to mean "the Bidder". Included by reference are 2 C.F.R. 200 and USAID Standard Provisions for Non-US Non-governmental Organizations/US Department of State Standard Terms and Conditions.

EXPERT RATE INFORMATION					
Name ( <i>Last, First, Middle</i> )		Proposed Rate:		Daily	Weekly
Rates should be given for the last three (3) years. If employment history/salary information is applicable, list salaries separate for each year. If expert services is applicable, indicate the type of rate daily/hourly.					
EMPLOYMENT HISTORY - SALARY					
POSITION TITLE	EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Employment Period ( <i>M/D/Y</i> )		Annual Salary <sup>1</sup> U.S. Dollars	
		From	To		
SPECIFIC EXPERT SERVICES					
SERVICES PERFORMED/TITLE	CLIENTS NAME AND ADDRESS POINT OF CONTACT & TELEPHONE #	Service Period ( <i>M/D/Y</i> )		Units at Rate	Daily/Hourly Rate <sup>2</sup> In U.S. Dollars
		From	To		
<b>CERTIFICATION:</b> To the best of my knowledge, the above facts as stated are true and correct.					
Signature				Date	

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<sup>1</sup> Basic periodic payment for services rendered. Exclude bonuses, profit-sharing arrangements, commissions, consultant fees extra or overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living or dependent education allowances.

<sup>2</sup> A form of management fee whereby the client pays a set fee for providing professional services. Exclude cost reimbursements, bonuses, overtime work payments, overseas differential or quarters, cost of living, and any other allowances.

Q&A:

1. Under "Technical Bid" number seven, it states that the ideal candidate must have proof of ability to work and reside in Georgia. Please confirm that only citizens of Georgia are eligible for the EOM positions.

This position is not restricted to Georgian citizens and is open to any nationality. Only those who are specifically barred from living and working in Georgia will not be considered. In most cases, a valid passport will suffice as poof of ability to work and reside in Georgia.

2. What are the exact dates for the duration of the contract?

While the exact date is not yet clear, IRI intends for the Mission Director to arrive in mid-May and stay in Georgia until early to mid-November to support the finalization of observation findings, amounting to roughly 24 weeks (about 5 and a half months). Note, IRI would be open to remote work as it pertains to drafting and completing the final report following the elections.

3. Is remote work an option, or will there be periods where remote work is allowable?

IRI intends for the Mission Director to be deployed in Georgia for the duration of the contract, as it requires daily interaction with local stakeholders. However, as noted above, IRI would be open to the prospect of remote work as it pertains to drafting and completing the final report following the elections.

4. When is the selection period for Long-Term Observers and will the Mission Director be involved in the selection process?

IRI is currently recruiting Long-Term Observers who will engage in the election observation mission. The Mission Director will not be part of the recruitment process. There is no need for Mission Director applicants to elaborate on the constitution or functions of the observation team.

5. The RFP states that the following geo codes are restricted: 110, 937? Are these geo codes relevant to potential applicants?

The values in the "Geo codes restricted" line are for internal use and do not impact the application process.

4. What is the current maximum daily rate?

The daily rate cannot exceed \$750.