

REQUEST FOR QUOTES

Procurement Number:	CENTER20232o
Open Date:	December 6, 2023
Questions Deadline:	January 5, 2023
Closing Deadline:	January 12, 2024
Geographical Area Restrictions:	NA
Point of Contact:	Hui Hui Ooi ; hooi@iri.org

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.

Period of Performance:

February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 (including the options to extend it for 3 additional years for up to a total of four years).

Statement of Work:

This contractor will serve as a consultant to provide advice and mentorship services to IRI's Center for Global Impact (CGI) and Regional Divisions' programming on needs related to cybersecurity, including security awareness training, risk assessment, policy and procedure development, incident response planning, network, endpoint, and cloud security. To this end, the Contractor will be expected to:

- Provide advisory services on cybersecurity approaches for IRI Center and Regional programs to embed cybersecurity capacity building with beneficiaries around the world. This advice may address, but is not limited to, issues of information security and data protection, network, endpoint and device security, risk assessment, organizational policies and procedures, operational security, etc.
- The Contractor will be expected to serve as a cybersecurity trainer and mentorship service resource for IRI Center and Regional Division programs. These training and mentorship services may include, but are not limited to: at the request of IRI staff 1) Conducting cybersecurity risk assessments for IRI's local partners and evaluating the cybersecurity awareness of key stakeholders, 2) Designing and delivering a customized cybersecurity training curriculum including training materials, modules, and presentations for IRI partners, 3) Providing on-the-go mentorship services to IRI local partners on cybersecurity best practices, 4) Providing on-the-go mentorship

services to IRI partners to establish and implement cybersecurity policies and procedures and 6) Providing IRI staff recommendations for cybersecurity tools developed.

- As part of the advisory services, the Contractor may be required to conduct the following advisory activities to ensure that topics or cybersecurity issues included in these documents are technically sound: 1) Review and provide technical input for IRI RFPs, resources, tools, or other programmatic documents used by staff or partners etc. for emerging projects , 2) provide technical input on external publications, such as Op-Ed, blogs, and other written articles, to be released either on IRI's website or on external websites,, and 3) Provide technical input on IRI proposals that include a cybersecurity activity. In this sense, the Contractor could also provide advice on program ideas related to cybersecurity activity, for which they would be required to participate in meetings with IRI staff , on an as needed basis.
- The Contractor may be requested to travel domestically or internationally to fulfill the scope of work.

Eligibility criteria:

- ✓ Ten or more years of relevant professional experience working with global civil society partners and democracy stakeholders in cybersecurity, digital forensics, threat intelligence, information integrity research or programming, international relations or a related field.
- ✓ Previously served as a trainer and able to demonstrate to partners an expert understanding of the cybersecurity global landscape and various approaches to counter cyber threats.
- ✓ Ten or more years of experience researching, analyzing cybersecurity threat actors and operations, and have published reports, journal publications, op-eds, policy briefs on these topics.
- ✓ Demonstrated understanding of the USG funding on cybersecurity issues and key stakeholders in the area.

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 10 pages (not including cover page), using Times New Roman font, 1" margins, font size 11.
6. All proposals should be in English.
7. Attachment requirements:
 - CV/Resume
 - Samples of published work (could include reports, op-eds, briefings, policy briefs, etc.)
 - A price proposal (including a daily and hourly rate and rate for travel)
 - 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 if travel is necessary for the contractors' participation in IRI activities and events. The hourly rates submitted should, therefore, not include an assumption of costs incurred by the contractor for travel related expenses. However, since international travel may be involved, the Contractor may provide a daily rate that accounts for international travel.

All other expenses, including transportation, lodging, and 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. Bids must be submitted in **USD**, payments under any resulting contract will be made in this currency.

Unite	Unit price
Hourly Rate	
Daily Rate	
Daily rate_ travel international	
Daily rate_ travel local (Washington, DC) - only necessary if bidders are not based in the DC Metro region	

Please note that daily rates may not exceed \$650.

This contract will be established with a contract ceiling, but the contract amount will not be guaranteed as request for services of the consultant will be done at an ad-hoc basis and as needs arise from program teams.

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. If IRI continues to require the goods and services and the price remains reasonable and within market norms, resulting contract may be renewed each year for up to 4 years with 30 days' notice to the Contractor. Bidder must establish any price increase for each renewal year in the initial bid.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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](#)).

13. 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) – 25 percent
- b) Past performance and experience in performing similar projects – 25 percent
- c) Previous publications and writing samples – 25 percent
- e) Price – 25 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 **Hui Hui Ooi**, at hooi@iri.org with the subject line "CENTER20232o - Cybersecurity Consultant" 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	Hourly
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 ¹ 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 ² In U.S. Dollars
		From	To		
CERTIFICATION: To the best of my knowledge, the above facts as stated are true and correct.					
Signature				Date	

¹ 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.

² 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.