

SUBCHAPTER C—CONTRACTING METHODS AND CONTRACT TYPES

PART 713—SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

Sec.

713.000 Scope of part.

Subpart 713.1—General

713.101 Definitions.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 621, Pub. L. 87-195, 75 Stat. 445, (22 U.S.C. 2381) as amended; E.O. 12163, Sept. 29, 1979, 44 FR 56673; 3 CFR 1979 Comp., p. 435.

SOURCE: 61 FR 39091, July 26, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

713.000 Scope of part.

The simplified acquisition threshold applies to the cost of supplies and services, exclusive of the cost of transportation and other accessorial costs if their destination is outside the United States.

Subpart 713.1—General

713.101 Definitions.

Accessorial costs means the cost of getting supplies or services to their destination in the cooperating country (and the travel costs of returning personnel to the U.S. or other point of hire). It does not include costs such as allowances or differentials related to maintaining personnel at post which are to be considered as part of the base costs within the simplified acquisition threshold.

PART 714—SEALED BIDDING

Subpart 714.4—Opening of Bids and Award of Contract

Sec.

714.406-3 Other mistakes disclosed before award.

714.406-4 Disclosure of mistakes after award.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 621, Pub. L. 87-195, 75 Stat. 445, (22 U.S.C. 2381) as amended; E.O. 12163, Sept. 29, 1979, 44 FR 56673; 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 435.

Subpart 714.4—Opening of Bids and Award of Contract

714.406-3 Other mistakes disclosed before award.

The Procurement Executive is the designated central authority to make the determinations described in FAR 14.406-3.

[49 FR 13240, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 54 FR 46389, Nov. 3, 1989]

714.406-4 Disclosure of mistakes after award.

The Procurement Executive is the designated central authority to make the determinations described in FAR 14.406-4.

[49 FR 13240, Apr. 3, 1984]

PART 715—CONTRACTING BY NEGOTIATION

Subpart 715.4—Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals and Quotations

Sec.

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715.613-70 Title XII selection procedure—general.

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AUTHORITY: Sec. 621, Pub. L. 87-195, 75 Stat. 445 (22 U.S.C. 2381) as amended; E.O. 12163, Sept. 29, 1979, 44 FR 56673; 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 435.

SOURCE: 49 FR 13240, Apr. 3, 1984, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 715.4—Solicitation and Receipt of Proposals and Quotations

715.413-2 Alternate II.

(a) A contracting officer may, subject to the requirements of this section and (FAR) 48 CFR 15.413-2, authorize release of proposals outside the Government for evaluation:

(1) When an evaluation assistance contractor (EAC) is required to provide technical advisory or other services relating to the evaluation of proposals; or

(2) When an individual other than a Government employee, known as a non-Government evaluator (NGE), is selected to serve as a member of an USAID technical evaluation committee.

(b) Prior to releasing proposals outside the Government for evaluation, the contracting officer shall obtain a signed and dated copy of a certification and agreement from each NGE and EAC substantially as follows:

CERTIFICATION AND AGREEMENT FOR THE USE AND DISCLOSURE OF PROPOSALS

With respect to proposals submitted in response to USAID solicitation no. _____, the undersigned hereby agrees, and/or certifies, to the following:

1. I will use the proposals, and all information therein other than information otherwise available without restriction, for evaluation purposes only. I will safeguard the proposals, and will not remove them from the site at which the evaluation is conducted unless authorized by the Contracting Officer. In addition, I will not disclose them, or any information contained in them (other than information otherwise available without restriction), except as directed or approved by the Contracting Officer.

2. I will ensure that any authorized restrictive legends placed on the proposals by prospective contractors or subcontractors, or USAID, will be applied to any reproduction, or abstract of information, made by me.

3. Upon completing the evaluation, I will return all copies of the proposals, and any abstracts thereof, to the USAID office which initially furnished them to me.

4. Unless authorized by the contracting officer in advance in writing, I will not,—whether before, during, or after the evaluation—contact any prospective contractor or subcontractor, or their employees, representatives or agents, concerning any aspect of the proposal.

5. I have carefully reviewed my employment (past, present and under consideration) and financial interests, as well as those of my household family members. Based on this review, I certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief as of the date indicated below, that I either (1) have no actual or potential conflict of interest, personal or organizational, that could diminish my capacity to perform an impartial and objective evaluation of the proposals, or that might otherwise result in an unfair competitive advantage to one or more prospective contractors or subcontractors, or (2) have fully disclosed all such conflicts to the contracting officer, and will comply fully, subject to termination of my evaluation services, with any instructions by the contracting officer to mitigate, avoid, or neutralize conflicts(s). I understand that I will also be under a continuing obligation to disclose, and act as instructed concerning, such conflicts discovered at any time prior to the completion of the evaluation.

Signature: _____
Name Typed or Printed: _____
Date: _____

[60 FR 11912, Mar. 3, 1995, as amended at 62 FR 40467, July 29, 1997]

Subpart 715.5—Unsolicited Proposals

715.502 Policy.

(a) USAID encourages the submission of unsolicited proposals which contribute new ideas consistent with and contributing to the accomplishment of the Agency's objectives. However, the requirements for contractor resources are normally quite program specific, and thus widely varied, and must be responsive to host country needs. Further, USAID's projects are usually designed in collaboration with the cooperating country. These factors can limit both the need for, and USAID's ability to use unsolicited proposals. Therefore, prospective offerors are encouraged to contact USAID to determine the Agency's technical and geographical requirements as related to the offeror's interests before preparing and submitting a formal unsolicited proposal.

(b) USAID's basic policies and procedures regarding unsolicited proposals are those established in FAR 15.5 and this subpart.

(c) For detailed information on unsolicited proposals, see 715.504; for initial

contact point within USAID, see 715.506.

715.504 Advance guidance.

(a) Information concerning USAID's policies for unsolicited proposals is available from the U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Procurement, Evaluation Division, Room 1600H, SA-14, Washington, DC 20523-1435.

(b) The information available concerns:

- (1) Contact points within USAID;
- (2) Definitions;
- (3) Characteristics of a suitable proposal;
- (4) Determination of contractor responsibility;
- (5) Organizational conflict of interest;
- (6) Cost sharing; and
- (7) Procedures for submission and evaluation of proposals.

[49 FR 13240, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 50 FR 50302, Dec. 10, 1985; 52 FR 21058, June 4, 1987; 56 FR 2699, Jan. 24, 1991; 56 FR 67224, Dec. 30, 1991; 59 FR 33446, June 29, 1994]

715.506 Agency procedures and point of contact.

Initial inquiries and subsequent unsolicited proposals should be submitted to the address specified in section 715.504 of this subpart.

[56 FR 2699, Jan. 24, 1991]

715.506-1 Receipt, and initial review.

USAID follows the policies and procedures established on FAR 15.506-1 and 15.506-2.

Subpart 715.6—Source Selection

715.604 Responsibilities.

715.604-70 Responsibilities of USAID evaluation committees.

(a) *Establishment and composition of USAID evaluation committees.* A technical evaluation committee shall be established for each proposed procurement. In each case, the committee shall be composed of a chair representing the cognizant technical office, a representative of the contracting office (who shall be a non-voting member of the committee), and representatives

from other concerned offices as appropriate.

(b) *Technical evaluation procedures.* (1) The contracting officer will receive all proposals and provide to the chair a listing and copies of the technical proposals and instructions for conducting the evaluation.

(2) The chair will promptly call a meeting of the committee to evaluate the proposals received. The evaluation shall be based on the evaluation factors set forth in the solicitation document.

(3) The chair shall prepare and provide to the contracting officer written documentation summarizing the results of the evaluation of each proposal, including an assessment of past performance information in accordance with FAR 15.608(a)(2) and section 752.209-70. The documentation shall include narrative justification of the evaluation results and shall reflect the requirements of FAR 15.608(a)(3).

(4) The contracting officer is responsible for reviewing the documentation justifying the evaluation results to determine that it is adequate and complete. The contracting officer shall return a justification determined to be inadequate to the chair for revision.

(5) No member of the USAID evaluation committee shall hold discussions with any offeror before or during the USAID evaluation committee's proceedings, nor shall any information about the proposals be provided to anyone not on the committee without first obtaining the contracting officer's consent.

[61 FR 39091, July 26, 1996]

715.605 [Reserved]

715.613 Alternative source selection procedures.

715.613-70 Title XII selection procedure—general.

(a) *General.* The Deputy Administrator has determined, as provided in AIDAR 706.302-70(b)(3)(ii) that use of this Title XII source selection procedure is necessary so as not to impair or affect USAID's ability to administer Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act. This determination is reflected in AIDAR 706.302-70(b)(4). This constitutes authority for other than full and open

competition when selecting Title XII institutions to perform Title XII projects.

(b) *Scope of subsection.* This subsection prescribes policies and procedures for the selection of institutions eligible under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to perform activities authorized under Title XII.

(c) *Applicability.* The provisions of this subsection are applicable when the project office certifies that the activity is authorized under Title XII, and determines that use of the Title XII selection procedure is appropriate.

(d) *Solicitation, evaluation, and selection procedures.* (1) Competition shall be sought among eligible Title XII institutions to the maximum practicable extent; this requirement shall be deemed satisfied when a contractor is selected under the procedures of this subsection.

(2) The project office shall—

(i) Prepare selection criteria for evaluation of eligible institutions for use in preparing the source list, determining predominantly qualified sources, and selecting the contractor;

(ii) Prepare an initial list of eligible institutions considered qualified to perform the proposed activity;

(iii) Provide a statement describing qualifications and areas of expertise considered essential, a statement of work, estimate of personnel requirements, special requirements (logistic support, government furnished property, and so forth) for the contracting officer's use in preparing the request for technical proposal (RFTP).

(iv) Send a memorandum incorporating the certification and determination required by paragraph (c) of this section, together with the information required by paragraphs (d)(2) (i) through (iii) of this section, with the "Action" copy of the PIO/T to the contracting officer, requesting him/her to prepare and distribute the RFTP.

(3) Upon receipt and acceptance of the project officer's request, the contracting officer shall prepare the RFTP. The RFTP shall contain sufficient information to enable an offeror to submit a responsive and complete technical proposal. This includes a definitive statement of work, an estimate

of the personnel required, and special provisions (such as logistic support, government furnished equipment, and so forth), a proposed contract format, and evaluation criteria. No cost or pricing data will be requested or required by the RFTP. The RFTP will be distributed to the eligible institutions recommended by the project office. The RFTP will be synopsisized, as required by FAR 5.201, and will normally allow a minimum of 60 days for preparation and submission of a proposal.

(4) Upon receipt of responses to the RFTP by the contracting officer, an evaluation committee will be established as provided for in 715.608 of this subpart.

(5) The evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals in accordance with the criteria set forth in the RFTP, and will prepare a selection memorandum which shall:

(i) State the evaluation criteria;

(ii) List all of the eligible institutions whose proposals were reviewed;

(iii) Report on the ranking and rationale therefor for all proposals;

(iv) Indicate the eligible institution or institutions considered best qualified.

(6) The evaluation committee will submit the selection memorandum to the contracting officer for review and approval.

(7) The contracting officer will either approve the selection memorandum, or return it to the evaluation committee for reconsideration for specified reasons.

(8) If the selection memorandum is approved, the contracting officer shall obtain cost, pricing, and other necessary data from the recommended institution or institutions and shall conduct negotiations. If a satisfactory contract cannot be obtained, the contracting officer will so advise the evaluation committee. The evaluation committee may then recommend an alternate institution or institutions.

[52 FR 6158, Mar. 2, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 28069, July 5, 1989; 55 FR 6802, Feb. 27, 1990]

715.613-71 Title XII selection procedure—collaborative assistance.

(a) *General.* (48 CFR) AIDAR 706.302-70(b)(4) provides authority for other than full and open competition when

selecting Title XII institutions to perform Title XII activities.

(b) *Scope of subsection.* This subsection prescribes policies and procedures for the selection of institutions eligible under Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, to perform activities authorized under Title XII, where USAID has determined, in accordance with paragraph (c) of this subsection, that use of the collaborative assistance contracting system is appropriate. See AIDR Appendix F (of this chapter)—Use of Collaborative Assistance Method for Title XII Activities for a more complete definition and discussion of the collaborative assistance method.

(c) *Determinations.* The following findings and determinations must be made prior to initiating any contract actions under the collaborative assistance method:

(1) The cognizant technical office makes a preliminary finding that an activity:

(i) Is authorized by Title XII; and

(ii) Should be classed as collaborative assistance because a continuing collaborative relationship between USAID, the host country, and the contractor is required from design through completion of the activity, and USAID, host country, and contractor participation in a continuing review and evaluation of the activity is essential for its proper execution.

(2) Based upon this preliminary finding, the cognizant technical office shall establish an evaluation panel consisting of a representative of the cognizant technical office as chairman, a representative of the contracting officer, and any other representatives considered appropriate by the chairman to review the proposed activity for its appropriateness under the collaborative assistance method.

(3) If supported by the panel's findings, the chairman will make a formal written determination that the collaborative assistance method is the appropriate contracting method for the Title XII activity in question.

(d) *Evaluation and selection.* (1) Competition shall be sought among eligible Title XII institutions to the maximum practicable extent; this requirement shall be deemed satisfied when a con-

tractor is selected under the procedures of this section.

(2) The evaluation panel shall:

(i) Prepare evaluation and selection criteria;

(ii) Prepare an initial source list of eligible institutions considered qualified to perform the proposed project; and

(iii) Evaluate the list, using the evaluation criteria previously determined, for the purpose of making a written determination of the sources considered most capable of performing the project.

(3) The chairman of the evaluation panel will prepare a memorandum requesting the contracting officer to prepare a request for expressions of interest from qualified sources and setting forth:

(i) The formal determinations required by paragraph (c) of this section;

(ii) The evaluation criteria which have been determined; and

(iii) The recommended source list and the rationale therefor.

(4) The contracting officer will prepare a request for an expression of interest (REI), containing sufficient information to permit an offeror to determine its interest in the project, and to discuss the project with USAID representatives, if appropriate. The REI should include a concise statement of the purpose of the activity, any special conditions or qualifications considered important, a brief description of the selection procedure and evaluation criteria which will be used, the proposed contract format, and any other information considered appropriate. The REI will be issued to the sources recommended by the panel, and to others, as appropriate; it will be synopsisized, as required by FAR 5.201, and it will normally allow a minimum of 60 days for preparation of an expression of interest. Guidelines for preparation of expressions of interest are contained in attachment 1 to AIDAR appendix F.

(5) The contracting officer will transmit all expressions of interest to the evaluation panel for evaluation and selection recommendation. The panel may conduct on site evaluations at its discretion, as part of the evaluation process.

(6) The chairman of the evaluation panel will prepare a written selection

recommendation with supporting justification, recommending that negotiations be conducted with the prospective contractor(s) selected by the evaluation panel. The selection recommendation shall be transmitted to the contracting officer together with the complete official file on the project which was being maintained by the evaluation panel.

(7) The contracting officer will review the selection recommendation, obtain necessary cost and other data, and proceed to negotiate with the recommended sources.

[52 FR 6159, Mar. 2, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 28069, July 5, 1989; 55 FR 6802, Feb. 27, 1990; 62 FR 40467, July 29, 1997; 62 FR 45334, Aug. 27, 1997; 62 FR 47532, Sept. 9, 1997]

PART 716—TYPES OF CONTRACTS

Subpart 716.3—Cost Reimbursement Contracts

Sec.

716.303 Cost-sharing contracts.

716.306 Cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts.

Subpart 716.5 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: Sec. 621, Pub. L. 87-195, 75 Stat. 445 (22 U.S.C. 2381) as amended; E.O. 12163, Sept. 29, 1979, 44 FR 56673; 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 435.

Subpart 716.3—Cost Reimbursement Contracts

716.303 Cost-sharing contracts.

(a)-(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Limitations.* In addition to the limitations specified in FAR 16.301-3, prior approval of the USAID Procurement Executive (see 702.170-13) is required in

order to use a cost-sharing contract with an educational institution.

[54 FR 46390, Nov. 3, 1989]

716.306 Cost-plus-fixed-fee contracts.

(a)-(b) [Reserved]

(c) The Contracting Officer is authorized to sign the D&F specified in FAR 16.306(c)(2).

[58 FR 8702, Feb. 17, 1993]

Subpart 716.5 [Reserved]

PART 717—SPECIAL CONTRACTING METHODS

AUTHORITY: Sec. 621, Pub. L. 87-195, 75 Stat. 445, (22 U.S.C. 2381) as amended; E.O. 12163, Sept. 29, 1979, 44 FR 56673; 3 CFR, 1979 Comp., p. 435.

Subpart 717.70—Pharmaceutical Products

717.700 General.

Section 606(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act bars procurement by the Government of drug and pharmaceutical products manufactured outside the United States if their manufacture involves the use of or is covered by an unexpired U.S. patent which has not been held invalid by an unappealed or unappealable court decision unless the manufacture is expressly authorized by the patent owner. Applicable policies and procedures are set forth in USAID Automated Directive System Chapter 312.

[49 FR 13243, Apr. 3, 1984, as amended at 61 FR 39092, July 26, 1996]