

PROCUREMENT PLAN

Basic Data

Project Name: Higher Education in the Pacific Investment Program	
Project Number: 42291	Approval Number:
Country: Regional	Executing Agency: University of the South Pacific
Project Procurement Classification: B	Implementing Agency: University of the South Pacific
Procurement Risk: Moderate	
Project Financing Amount: \$17.875 million ADB Financing: \$15.4 million Cofinancing (ADB Administered): \$1.5 million Non-ADB Financing: \$1.625 million (University of the South Pacific), \$0.850 million (Government of Solomon Islands)	Project Closing Date: 31 December 2019
Date of First Procurement Plan: April 2011	Date of this Procurement Plan: 29 April 2016

1. Methods, Thresholds, Review and 18-Month Procurement Plan

a. Procurement and Consulting Methods and Thresholds

40. Except as ADB may otherwise agree, the following process thresholds shall apply to procurement of goods and works:

Procurement of Goods and Works		
Method	Threshold	Comments
International Competitive Bidding (ICB) for Works	At or above \$3,000,000	
International Competitive Bidding for Goods	At or above \$1,000,000	
National Competitive Bidding (NCB) for Works	Beneath that stated for ICB, Works	
National Competitive Bidding for Goods	Beneath that stated for ICB, Goods	
Shopping for Works	Below \$300,001	
Shopping for Goods	Below \$300,001	

b. Goods and Works Contracts Estimated to Cost \$1 Million or More

42. The following table lists goods and works contracts for which procurement activity is either ongoing or expected to commence within the next 18 months.

Package Number	General Description	Estimated Value	Procurement Method	Review [Prior / Post/Post (Sampling)]	Bidding Procedure	Advertisement Date (quarter/year)	Comments
	Civil works for Solomon Islands campus expansion	12,601,500	ICB	Prior	1S1E	Q1/2017	

4. National Competitive Bidding

a. General

46. NCB will be in compliance with the provisions of ADB's Procurement Guidelines.

b. Participation in Bidding

47. Government-owned enterprises in respective countries where project activities are implemented will be eligible to bid only if they can establish that they are legally and financially autonomous, operate under commercial law, and are not a dependent agency of the recipient/executing agency/implementing agency.

48. Foreign bidders will be eligible to participate in bidding under the same conditions as national bidders.

49. Bidding will not be restricted to pre-registered firms, and such registration will not be stated in the bidding documents as a condition for the submission of bids. Where registration is required prior to award of contract, bidders (i) will be allowed a reasonable time to complete the registration process; and (ii) will not be denied registration for reasons unrelated to their capability and resources to successfully perform the contract, which will be verified through post qualification.

c. Classification of Contractors, Qualification, and Post-qualification

50. Post-qualification will be used unless prequalification is explicitly provided for in the procurement and grant agreement.

51. Bidding will not be restricted to any particular class of contractors, and non-classified contractors will also be eligible to bid. Qualification criteria (in case prequalification was not carried out) will be stated in the bidding documents, and before contract award, the bidder having submitted the lowest evaluated responsive bid will be subject to post-qualification.

d. Conflict of Interest

52. Bidders may be considered to be in conflict of interest with one or more parties in this bidding process if, including but not limited to:

- (i) they have controlling shareholders in common; or
- (ii) they receive or have received any direct or indirect subsidy from any of them; or
- (iii) they have the same legal representative for purposes of this bid; or
- (iv) they have a relationship with each other, directly or through common third parties, that puts them in a position to have access to information about or influence on the bid or another bidder, or influence the decisions of the employer regarding this bidding process; or
- (v) a bidder participates in more than one bid in this bidding process; participation by a bidder in more than one bid will result in the disqualification of all bids in which the party is involved; however, this does not limit the inclusion of the same subcontractor in more than one bid; or
- (vi) a bidder or any of its affiliates participated as a consultant in the preparation of the design or technical specifications of the contract is the subject of the bid; or

- (vii) a bidder or any of its affiliates has been hired (or is proposed to be hired) by the employer or recipient as engineer for the contract.

e. Preferences

53. No preference will be given to domestic bidders and to domestically manufactured goods.

f. Advertising and Time for Bid Preparation

54. Invitations to bid will be advertised in at least three newspapers of national circulation or freely accessible and well-known websites, allowing a minimum of 4 weeks for the preparation and submission of bids, such 4 week period to begin with the availability of the bid documents or the advertisement, whichever is later.

55. Bidding of NCB contracts estimated at \$500,000 or more for goods and related services, or \$1,000,000 or more for civil works, will be advertised on ADB's website via the posting of the procurement plan.

g. Standard Bidding Documents

56. Until national standard bidding documents approved by ADB are available, bidding documents acceptable to ADB should be used.

h. Bid Security

57. If required by the bidding documents, bid security will be in the form of a bank guarantee from a reputable bank. A bidder's bid security will apply only to a specific bid.

i. Bid Opening and Bid Evaluation

58. Bidders may deliver bids, at their option, either in person or by courier service or by mail.

59. Bidders will not be allowed to amend their tenders after the closing date and time for submission of bids.

60. Bids will be opened in public, immediately after the deadline for submission of bids. No bid will be rejected during bid opening. The name of the bidder, the total amount of each bid, and any discounts will be read aloud and recorded in the minutes of the public bid opening.

61. Evaluation of bids will be made in strict adherence to the qualifications and evaluation criteria stipulated in the bidding documents

62. No bidder will be rejected merely on the basis of a comparison with the employer's estimate and budget ceiling without ADB's prior concurrence.

63. The contract will be awarded to the technically responsive bidder that offers the lowest evaluated price, and meets the qualifying criteria. In determining the lowest evaluated price the following are to be considered: (i) bid price, as offered; (ii) arithmetical corrections on the bid price, if any; and (iii) monetary value of the evaluation criteria that are stated in the bidding document.

j. Rejection of Bids

64. Bids will not be rejected and new bids solicited without ADB's prior concurrence.

k. Extension of Validity of Bids

65. In exceptional circumstances and with prior ADB approval, the procuring entity may, before the expiration of bid validity, request all bidders in writing to extend the validity of their bids. In such a case, bidders will not be requested nor permitted to amend the price or any other condition of their bid. Bidders will have the right to refuse to grant such an extension without forfeiting their bid security, but bidders granting such an extension will be required to provide a corresponding extension of their bid security.

l. Disclosure on Contract Awards

66. At the same time that notification on award of contract is given, the recipient/executing agency/implementing agency will publish the following information on contract award on a free and open access website or other means of publication acceptable to ADB: (i) name of each bidder that submitted a bid; (ii) bid prices as read out at bid opening; (iii) name and evaluated price of each bid that was evaluated; (iv) names of bidders whose bids were rejected and the reasons for the rejection; and (v) name of the winning bidder, price it offered, as well as the duration and summary scope of the contract awarded. The executing/implementing agency will respond in writing to unsuccessful bidders that seek explanations on the grounds on which their bids were not selected.

m. No negotiations

67. There will be no negotiations, even with the lowest evaluated bidder, without ADB's prior concurrence. A bidder will not be required, as a condition of award, to undertake obligations not specified in the bidding documents, or otherwise to modify the bid as originally submitted.

n. Inspection and Auditing

68. Each contract financed from the proceeds of the loan will provide that the contractor/supplier will permit ADB, at its request, to inspect its accounts and records relating to the performance of the contract and to have said accounts and records audited by auditors appointed by ADB.

o. Member Country Restriction

69. Bidders must be nationals of member countries of ADB, and offered goods must be produced in and supplied from member countries of ADB.