## SADC SECRETARIAT RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATIONS

## REQUEST FOR SERVICES TITLE: TECHNICAL ASSISSTANCE TO THE SADC SECRETARIAT ON TRADE FACILITATION PROGRAMME

Reference Number: SADC/3/5/1/12

**DATE OF ISSUE OF RESPONSES:** 21 NOVEMBER 2019

Questio n Nº	Question	SADC Secretariat Response
N°1	Pages 1-22 of the Instructions to applicants, Qualification requirements, part "a) Experience as Contractor in at least 2 contracts within the last 5 years of at least 3.75 million, that have been successfully and substantially completed etc."	
	<ul> <li>Questions:</li> <li>a) Can we present contracts still under implementation, provided that we demonstrate that the portion carried out to date is higher than the 3.75 million threshold?</li> <li>b) Does 3.75 million refer to the value of the overall contract to be presented, or, in case of contracts implemented in consortia, only to the portion carried out by the applicant company?</li> </ul>	b. All members together must meet, they can be from either party of the
Nº 2	In the Prequalification document for procurement of technical assistance to the SADC secretariat on trade facilitation programme; section III. Qualification Criteria and Requirements; point 2.1: Experience in implementing similar contracts, it is mentioned the following 2 criteria:	
	a) Experience as Contractor, in at least 2 contracts within the last 5 years, each with a value of at least USD 3.75 million, that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed services. The similarity shall be based on the physical size, complexity, methods/technology or other characteristics as described in Section VI, Scope of the Contract	

	b) At least 50% of the Applicant's activity shall be in the following area of specialization: Trade facilitation Programme.	
	Could you kindly confirm that the 50% of the applicant's activity mentioned in criteria b) applies solely to the contracts implemented as mentioned under criteria a), and not to the whole turnover of the applicant? By that, we mean that 50% of the contracts implemented by the applicant shall be in the area of Trade facilitation.	Yes, Make reference to requirements under Form 2b
	<u>Duration of the Programme</u> : the invitation to prequalification foresees that the <i>period of implementation of the contract will be 40 months from date of commencement</i> ; however, the indicative number of working days foreseen for the KE1 is 880 days, which does not leave any day off for the entire duration of the project. The usual number of working days per year in EU funded projects is of 220 days per year, i.e. 880 days for four years (48 months).	
	Could you kindly confirm that the duration of the project could be of 48 months?	This was an indicative duration. The precise duration of the contract will be highlighted at the RFP stage
Nº 3	In the Procurement Documents Section III. Qualification Criteria and Requirements the following criterion for applicants is specified under 2. Qualification Requirements, subject 2.1. "Experience in implementing similar contracts":	
	Requirement a) "Experience as Contractor, in at least 2 contracts within the last 5 years, each with a value of USD 3.75 million, that have been successfully and substantially completed and that are similar to the proposed services."	
	i. Could you explain what is defined as "substantially" completed?	Reference should be made to Qualifications CRITERIA 2.1 about what is deemed successfully and substantially completed - Source of information being form 2a

Could you explain the definition of "within the last 5 years" in the requirement a), e.g. would a project that has started in 2011 and ended in 2015 qualify as a reference under this criterion?

No

Under requirement b) is further specified that "At least 50% of the Applicants activity should be in the following area of specialization "Trade facilitation programme". This criterion could be understood in a way that a majority of companies who have a high experience and turnover in trade facilitation projects but also implement consultancy in other technical domains could be excluded from the tender. Against this background, we would like to pose the following specific questions:

- Does this requirement refer to each of the submitted |i) references or to the total activities of the applicant company?
- If the requirement refers to the total activities of the applicant, given the variety of thematic fields that many consulting firms usually work on through different departments, is it possible to indicate the area of specialization in percentage of turnover of the respective technical Department submitting the prequalification application?
- It refers to the total of the activities of the applicant company;
- Yes, it is possible

**End of Responses** 

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