

Specific Procurement Notice – Request for Bids without Prequalification

Request for Bid
Sierra Leone National
Switch
(Design, Supply and Installation)
(Without Prequalification)

Purchaser: *Government of Sierra Leone*

Project: *Financial Inclusion Project*

Contract title: *Supply and Installation of the Sierra Leone National Switch*

Country: *Sierra Leone*

Credit No.: 6367-SL

RFB No: SL-MOFED-96344-GO-RFP

Issued on: *7th February, 2020.*

1. *The government of Sierra Leone has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the financial inclusion project and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract ¹for Supply and installation of the National Switch Platform in Sierra Leone². For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit."*
2. *The Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for implementing a national payment switching platform to facilitate the integration and interoperability of various financial payments providers licensed and approved by Bank of Sierra Leone (BSL) to promote faster payments and digital financial services in Sierra Leone.; The solution will enable interoperability by having connection to various Financial Switches, BSL RTGS, Third party service provider's, Mobile money operators, the International gateway, and fintech innovators. The objective is to facilitate efficient and wider financial services access across country and accelerate growth of digital financial services and reduce usage of cash. *The intended**

switch shall provide interoperability to existing financial service providers' switches and allow for future scalability to accommodate further payment services such as card production, ATM and POS management, connectivity to regional and international gateways. The switch provider should take into consideration that BSL intends to launch this national switch to live operation with functionality for switching ATM, POS, and Mobile transactions within 12-18 months from contract signature. The switch solution will be installed at BSL primary and disaster recovery sites..

3. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" July 2016, Revised November 2017 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from **Princess Kanu, Senior Manager, Financial Sector Development Unit, Governor's Office Central Bank of Sierra Leone**, E-mail is fsdp@bsl.gov.sl and inspect the bidding document during office hours *i.e.* 10:00 to 17:00 hours at the PFMU address given below.
5. The bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee³ of Le. 2,000,000.00 (Two Million Leones) or \$200.00 (Two Hundred United States Dollars). The method of payment will be by bank transfer, wire transfer, or direct deposit in the below bank account:

Account number: 01-1011564

Account Name: Financial Inclusion Project

Bank: Rokel Commercial Bank

Swift Code: RCBKSLFR

Correspondent Bank: Standard Chartered Bank New York

US\$ Account Nr: 17-01-1773739

Swift BIC: SCBLUS33

The documents may be collected by hand at **PFMU, First Floor, Africanus House, 13a Howe Street, Freetown**; between the **office hours from 9:00 to 17:00, Sierra Leone time zone**, or maybe sent by electronic mail at no additional cost. Hard copy maybe sent by courier at the bidder's own expense.

6. Sealed bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 26th, 2020 at 11:00 Hours Sierra Leone time zone**. Electronic Bidding will not be permitted. Late Bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend at the address below on **March 26th, 2020 at 11:00 am Sierra Leone time zone**.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a *Bid Security* of \$90,000.00 (*Ninety Thousand United States Dollars*). The bids shall remain valid for **120 days** starting from the deadline of their submission.

8. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
9. The address (es) referred to above is (are):

The Project Fiduciary Management Unit

Ministry of Finance

13A Howe Street

Freetown, Sierra Leone

1st Floor

Tel: Cell: + 232 76672186

Email: pfmu2018@gmail.com

Signed _____

Date _____


7/12/2020