

Request for Quote/Proposal (RFQ/RFP)

Commodity/Service Required:	Technical Assistance to support to Climate fintech Company
Type of Procurement:	One-time procurement
Type of Contract:	Fixed-cost contract
Term of Contract:	10 months
Contract Funding:	USAID
This Procurement supports:	Power Africa Off-grid Project (PAOP)
Submit Proposal to:	paopsubcontracts@powerafrica-offgrid.org
Date of Issue of RFP:	Friday August 27, 2021
Date Questions from Supplier Due:	Wednesday September 8, 2021
Date Proposal Due:	Friday September 24, 2021
Approximate Date Purchase Order Issued to Successful Bidder(s):	October 18, 2021

Method of Submittal:	
Email Submission to paopsubcontracts@powerafrica-offgrid.org	
Respond via e-mail with attached document in MS Word / pdf format. The Bidder/Seller agrees to hold the prices in its offer firm for 90 days from the date specified for the receipt of offers, unless another time is specified in the addendum of the RFP/RFQ.	
Solicitation Number	PAOP-RFQ/P-2021-003

Attachments to RFP:

1. Attachment "A" – Statement of Work
2. Attachment "B" – Instructions to Bidders/Sellers
3. All PO Terms and Conditions are listed on our website at forth at:
<https://www.rti.org/sites/default/files/rti-purchase-order-terms-and-conditions-v1.16.pdf>,
<http://www.rti.org/files/PO FAR Clauses.pdf> or for commercial items:
<http://www.rti.org/files/PO FAR Clauses Commercial Items.pdf> (hereinafter the "Terms").
 Supplier's delivery of products, performance of services, or issuance of invoices in connection with this purchase order establishes Supplier's agreement to the Terms. The Terms may only be modified in writing signed by both parties.

All bidders/sellers are responsible to carefully review each attachment and follow any instructions that may be relevant to this procurement.

Attachment A

Commodity Specifications or Statement of Work

Statement of Work

Indicate a description of the activity/service that is expected from the supplier. Provide product specifications or service expectations (both if applicable). Include deliverables, timelines, and any special terms and conditions.

Description of Activity/Service:

About the Power Africa Off-grid Project

The Power Africa Off-grid Project provides technical assistance to support the development of sub-Saharan Africa's off-grid solar home system and mini-grid sectors. Under its Access to Finance work stream, the project team provides support to investors to develop bankable pipelines and perform due diligence. In parallel, the team works with off-grid energy companies to raise capital given the capital-intensive nature of their businesses and the need for third party capital to support the growth of the sector. Please refer to the Project fact sheet available at: www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/PAOP_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Background

The Company is a Climate fintech addressing financial inclusion and energy access in emerging markets. The Company's platform combines finance and technology and focuses on credit risk assessments to build a scalable B2B2C business model and partners with local entrepreneurs to finance and distribute affordable solar power to households and SMEs, enabling communities to power their homes and businesses independently from the electricity grid or expensive fossil fuel-based products and to improve their financial inclusion and overall socioeconomic status.

Deliverables, Timelines, Special Terms and Conditions:

Scope of Work

The Company chose Zambia as its entry point in late 2017, followed by Cameroon and Togo in 2019 and Namibia and Ghana in 2021. Since incorporation, the Company has proven its innovative business model, gained traction, and secured 12 distribution partnerships in five countries. The Company is planning to expand surrounding markets, substantially increasing its scale-up capital needs. Current annual turnover is ~\$1.7m, with ~10k clients served

The Company has a good base of sponsors and lenders and strong partnerships and has already started advanced discussions with a number of interested new investors from the cleantech, energy access, and impact space for possible equity and debt investments.

It is seeking the services of an experienced advisor to support with a capital raise with new financiers, as well as defining the optimal structuring and fundraising strategy for ~ USD 5m in debt and equity (new equity to fund operations and scale up existing operations and expand into new markets and debt to fund working capital).

Objective:

PAOP will engage with a firm to advise the Company on raising debt/equity. The scope of work includes:

1. Review and comment on existing key fundraising related documents
2. Update and/or prepare marketing and investment materials, including a teaser, a full-length information memorandum, and a comprehensive data room in order to help the Company to get investment ready
3. Advice on the right form of capital for the Company and the best source of that capital
4. Finalize the valuation sheet of the Company at the corporate level

5. Advice on the optimal terms of any upcoming investment and help negotiate with investors to secure those terms.
6. Identification and contacting of potential equity, quasi-equity, and debt investors;
 - a. Minimum of two introductions to investors per month
 - b. The advisor is expected to show a high level of involvement and proactivity, and to target investors that are not already very known to the company
7. Evaluation of debt and equity offers as well as negotiation and advising on the best strategy and tactics to optimize the position of existing shareholders of the Company;
8. Support in managing the investors' diligence requests.
9. Support the Company in the investment process, including drafting and negotiation of the equity/debt term sheet(s) and closing the transaction(s)
10. Support the Company in reviewing and giving input to negotiations of loan agreements and/or Shareholder's Agreement

Expected Deliverables

- Confirmation that success fee has been negotiated and agreed to with the Company, within two weeks of contract signing.
- Review and finalization of the Company's key documents incl. business plan, pitch deck, and financial model with a valuation sheet.
- Development of a data room and an updated investment teaser and project information memorandum, which will include company business model description and positioning, competitive advantage, management team, competitor analysis, and financial forecasts/projections.
- Development of an investor outreach list and a summary table comparing and contrasting investor proposals.
- Executed Term Sheets by investors
- Commercial and structuring comments to loan agreements and/or Shareholder's Agreement

Requirement to applicants

Short (5-10 pages) background and description of:

1. The Advisor's ability to provide the support requested in particular:
 - a. Experience successfully raising funds (preferably equity and debt) for one or more of the following companies:
 - i. solar energy or energy access companies or
 - ii. Impact start-ups
 - iii. African based or start-ups with a strong Africa link
 - b. Experience raising funds for Venture Capital and from Impact investors, including HNWI's, Family Offices, Foundations, and Institutions – experience with DFIs is a plus
 - c. Experience with European investors and companies with a link with Africa will also be beneficial
2. The suggested approach for fundraising is the proposed positioning of the Company and the types of investor profile that the Advisor would suggest targeting.
3. Three examples of past performance (no more than six pages total).
4. Short biographies of key staff who will support this subcontract.
5. **Detailed excel budget including the estimated level of effort per staff member (include resource level) for each deliverable listed above.**

*Note that the Company maintains first right of refusal for all companies providing support

Attachment "B"

Instructions to Bidders/Sellers

1. **Procurement Narrative Description:** The Buyer (RTI) intends to purchase commodities and/or services identified in Attachment A. The Buyer intends to purchase the quantities (for commodities) and/or services (based on deliverables identified in a Statement of Work). The term of the Ordering Agreement shall be from Award Date to the Delivery date of the Offeror unless extended by mutual agreement of the parties. The Buyer intends to award to a single "approved" supplier based on conformance to the listed specifications, the ability to service this contract, and selling price. We reserve the right to award to more than one bidder. If an Ordering Agreement is established as a result of this RFQ/RFP, supplier understands that quantities indicated in the specifications (Attachment A) are an estimate only and RTI does not guarantee the purchase quantity of any item listed.
2. **Procuring Activity:** This procurement will be made by **Research Triangle Institute (RTI International)**, located at

3040 East Cornwallis Road, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

(insert full address of the office)

who has a purchase requirement in support of a project funded by

Power Africa Off-grid Project

(insert client's name)

RTI shall award the initial quantities and/or services and any option quantities (if exercised by RTI) to Seller by a properly executed Purchase Order as set forth within the terms of this properly executed agreement.

3. **Proposal Requirements.** All Sellers will submit a quote/proposal which contains offers for all items and options included in this RFQ/RFP. All information presented in the Sellers quote/proposal will be considered during RTI's evaluation. Failure to submit the information required in this RFQ/RFP may result in Seller's offer being deemed non-responsive. Sellers are responsible for submitting offers, and any modifications, revisions, or withdrawals, so as to reach RTI's office designated in the RFQ/RFP by the time and date specified in the RFQ/RFP. Any offer, modification, revision, or withdrawal of an offer received at the RTI office designated in the RFQ/RFP after the exact time specified for receipt of offers is "late" and may not be considered at the discretion of the RTI Procurement Officer. The Seller's proposal shall include the following:
 - (a) The date and time submitted:
 - (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the seller (bidder) and authorized signature of same:
 - (c) Validity period of Quote:

- (d) A technical description of the items being offered in sufficient detail to evaluate compliance with the requirements in the solicitation. This may include product literature, or other documents, if necessary.
 - (e) If RTI informs Seller that the Commodity is intended for export and the Commodity is not classified for export under Export Classification Control Number (ECCN) "EAR99" of the U.S. Department of Commerce Export Administration Regulations (EAR), then Seller must provide RTI the correct ECCN and the name of Seller's representative responsible for Trade Compliance who can confirm the export classification.
 - (f) Lead Time Availability of the Commodity/Service.
 - (g) Terms of warranty describing what and how the warranties will be serviced.
 - (h) Special pricing instructions: Price and any discount terms or special requirements or terms (special note: pricing must include guaranteed firm fixed prices for items requested.
 - (i) Payment address or instructions (if different from mailing address)
 - (j) Acknowledgment of solicitation amendments (if any)
 - (k) Past performance information, when included as an evaluation factor, to include recent and relevant contracts for the same or similar items and other references (including points of contact with telephone numbers, and other relevant information)
 - (l) **Special Note:** *The Seller, by his response to this RFQ/RFP and accompanying signatures, confirms that the terms and conditions associated with this RFQ/RFP document have been agreed to and all of its attachments have been carefully read and understood and all related questions answered.*
4. **Questions Concerning the Procurement.** All questions in regards to this RFQ/RFP to be directed to
- Emily Allen and Sara Scholl
- at this email address:
- paopsubcontracts@powerafrica-offgrid.org
- The cut-off date for questions is:
- Wednesday September 8, 2021
5. **Notifications and Deliveries:** Time is of the essence for this procurement. Seller shall deliver the items or services no later than the dates set forth in the contract that will be agreed by both parties as a result of this RFQ/RFP. The Seller shall immediately contact the Buyer's Procurement Officer if the specifications, availability, or the delivery schedule(s) changes. Exceptional delays will result in financial penalties being imposed of Seller.

6. **Documentation:** The following documents will be required for payment for each item:
 - (a) A detailed invoice listing Purchase Order Number, Bank information with wiring instructions (when applicable)
 - (b) Packing List
 - (c) All relevant product/service documentation (manuals, warranty doc, certificate of analysis, etc.)

8. **Payment Terms:** Refer to RTI purchase order terms and conditions found in <https://www.rti.org/sites/default/files/rti-purchase-order-terms-and-conditions-v1.16.pdf> , http://www.rti.org/files/PO_FAR_Clauses.pdf, or http://www.rti.org/files/PO_FAR_Clauses_Commercial_Items.pdf. Payment can be made via wire transfer or other acceptable form. Sellers may propose alternative payment terms and they will be considered in the evaluation process.

9. **Alternative Proposals:** Sellers are permitted to offer “alternatives” should they not be able to meet the listed requirements. Any alternative proposals shall still satisfy the minimum requirements set forth in Attachment A Specifications.

10. **Inspection Process:** Each item shall be inspected prior to final acceptance of the item. All significant discrepancies, shortages, and/or faults must be satisfactorily corrected and satisfactorily documented prior to delivery and release of payment.

11. **Evaluation and Award Process:** The RTI Procurement Officer will award an agreement contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible Seller (bidder) whose offer conforms to the RFQ/RFP will be most advantageous to RTI, price and other factors considered. The award will be made to the Seller representing the **best value** to the project and to RTI. For the purpose of this RFQ/RFP, price, delivery, technical and past performance are of equal importance for the purposes of evaluating, and selecting the “best value” awardee. RTI intends to evaluate offers and award an Agreement without discussions with Sellers. Therefore, the Seller’s initial offer should contain the Seller’s best terms from a price and technical standpoint. However, RTI reserves the right to conduct discussions if later determined by the RTI Procurement Officer to be necessary.

The evaluation factors will be comprised of the following criteria:

- (a) **PRICE.** Lowest evaluated ceiling price (inclusive of option quantities).
- (b) **DELIVERY.** Seller provides the most advantageous delivery schedule.
- (c) **TECHNICAL.** Items/Services shall satisfy or exceed the specifications described in RFQ/RFP Attachment A. The quality of the technical proposal in terms of methodology statement, key personnel, quality assurance, mobilization schedule, implementation schedule, proposed project execution organogram and any other activities such as the bidding team’s experience and qualifications as specified in the SOW above
- (d) **PAST PERFORMANCE** – Potential vendor can demonstrate his/her capability and resources to provide the items/services requested in this solicitation in a timely and responsive manner.
- (e) **OTHER EVALUATION CRITERIA.**

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12. **Award Notice.** A written notice of award or acceptance of an offer, mailed or otherwise

furnished to the successful supplier within the time acceptance specified in the offer, shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

13. **Validity of Offer.** This RFP in no way obligates RTI to make an award, nor does it commit RTI to pay any costs incurred by the Seller in the preparation and submission of a proposal or amendments to a proposal. Your proposal shall be considered valid for 90 days after submission.
14. **Representations and Certifications.** Winning suppliers under a US Federal Contract are required to complete and sign as part of your offer RTI Representations and Certifications for values over \$10,000.
15. **Anti- Kick Back Act of 1986.** Anti-Kickback Act of 1986 as referenced in FAR 52.203-7 is hereby incorporated into this Request for Proposal as a condition of acceptance. If you have reasonable grounds to believe that a violation, as described in Paragraph (b) of FAR 52.203-7 may have occurred, you should report this suspected violation to the RTI's Ethics Hotline at 1-877-212-7220 or by sending an e-mail to ethics@rti.org. You may report a suspected violation anonymously.
16. **The John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019 - section 889.** RTI cannot use any equipment or services from specific companies, or their subsidiaries and affiliates, including Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, and Dahua Technology Company ("Covered Technology"). In response to this request for proposal, please do not provide a quote which includes any Covered Technology. Any quote which includes Covered Technology will be deemed non-responsive. Additionally, if the United States Government is the source of funds for this RFP, the resulting Supplier shall not provide any equipment, system, or service that uses Covered Technology as a substantial or essential component

Acceptance:

Seller agrees, as evidenced by signature below, that the seller's completed and signed solicitation, seller's proposal including all required submissions and the negotiated terms contained herein, constitute the entire agreement for the services described herein.

By: *(Seller Company Name)*

Signature: _____

Title:

Date: