



**MADHYA BHOTEKOSHI
JALAVIDYUT COMPANY LIMITED**

**Middle Bhotekoshi
Hydroelectric Project
(102 MW)**

No. 1 SET

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Lot 1: Civil and Hydro-Mechanical Works (EPC Contract)

Contract Identification No.: MBJCL/MBKHEP/068/69/EPC-1

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Introduction

A number of questions and requests for clarifications have been received from the Bidders during the bidding process.

In accordance with the Instructions to Bidders these questions are summarised and answered in the following sections. The identity of the Bidders who have submitted questions has not been revealed.

Contractual and Technical Questions

Question 1: Can the Submission date be shifted to the 2nd of July 2013?

Answer 1: Yes, the Submission date is now the 2nd of July 2013.

Question 2: Can there be monthly payments to improve the Contractor's cash flow?

Answer 2: No, payments will be made after the Milestones, or portions of the Milestones, have been completed.

Question 3: Considering the long construction period, can Price Adjustment be introduced into the Contract?

Answer 3: No, all prices shall remain fixed for the period of this Contract and shall not be adjusted due to inflation.

Question 4: What are the regulations regarding VAT, import duties and other taxes in the Contract?

Answer 4: The regulations regarding VAT, import duties and other taxes are now detailed in Addendum No. 1.

Question 5: Can each joint venture partner submit separate Bid Securities for their portion of the Bid?

Answer 5: No, one Bid Security in the name of the joint venture or in the names of all the joint venture partners shall be submitted.

Question 6: Shall the travel expenses of trainees posted abroad be paid by the Employer?

Answer 6: No, travel expenses of trainees posted abroad shall be paid by the Contractor.

Question 7: Shall the Employer provide the land for site installations?

Answer 7: Yes, the Employer shall provide the land for the site installations.

Question 8: Shall the temporary site offices, store buildings and workshops built by the Contractor for his use during the construction period be handed over to the Employer at the end of the Contract?

Answer 8: No, the temporary site offices, store buildings and workshops built by the Contractor for his use during the construction period shall be removed at the end of the Contract and the affected areas reinstated.

However, the Site Clinic shall be handed over to the Employer in good condition before the Performance Certificate is issued.

Question 9: Can any commercial bank in Nepal issue the Performance Security?

Answer 9: Any commercial bank acceptable to the Employer can issue the Performance Security providing the bank in Nepal carry 100% of the risk. Any foreign bank which provided the Performance Security or re-insures the Performance Security has to have an international "A" Rating.

Question 10: When will the Performance Security be returned to the Contractor?

Answer 10: The Performance Security shall remain valid up to 90 days after the end of the Defects Notification Period. The security deposit, less any amounts due, shall be returned to the Contractor 6 months after the expiration of the Defects Notification Period and after the Employer has issued the Performance Certificate.

"Any amounts due" shall be understood as outstanding amounts due to be paid by the Contractor to the Employer.

Question 11: Must the bank which provided the Advance Payment Security be rated?

Answer 11: If the bank which provided the Advance Payment Security is in Nepal, it shall be a Class A commercial bank. If the bank which provided the Advance Payment Security is outside Nepal, it shall have an international "A" Rating.

Question 12: Can the Retention Money be released against submission of a bank guarantee?

Answer 12: No, this is not foreseen.

Question 13: Please confirm that the funding of the Project is secured.

Answer 13: Yes, funding for the project has been secured by the Employer.

Question 14: The additional geological investigations have to be completed within 90 of the Commencement Date but the areas for the site installations are only available 60 days after the Commencement Date. This is not feasible.

Answer 14: The site installation areas for the equipment for the additional geological investigations will be made available earlier than 60 days after the Commencement Date.

Question 15: Will the Defects Notification Period be extended for the repaired or replaced areas or for the whole of the Works if repairs or replacements are carried out.

Answer 15: The Defects Notification Period shall be extended for the whole of the Works if repairs or replacements are carried out. The Defects Notification Period shall not be extended to more than a total period of 1095 days.

Question 16: How big is the Provisional Sum amount?

Answer 16: The Provisional Sum amount is NRs. 70,000,000.00.

Question 17: What is the scope of work for the diversion tunnel in this Contract?

Answer 17: The Contractor for this Contract will complete the last 20m and the inlet portal for this diversion tunnel.

Question 18: What is a 1 in 20 year flood of the dry season?

Answer 18: The 1 in 20 year flood of the dry season is the maximum probable flood in the dry season during a 20 year period.

The 20-years flood during the dry season is assumed to be 114 m³/s (see Volume 2, Hydrology, Section 5.4).

The upstream diversion tunnel portal invert will be established at level 1146 m asl.

The tunnel will be concrete lined from u/s portal, through the bend till end of bend (minimum length of lining).

The discharge capacity with free flow will be 80 m³/s to 90 m³/s approximately.

With upstream water level 1152.70 approximately the discharge will reach 100 m³/s, with the upstream part of tunnel running under pressure and free flow will establish after the bend.

With upstream water level 1153.30 approximately the discharge would reach 140 m³/s with most of the tunnel being under pressure.

With adequate constructive measures (e.g. u/s portal hydraulically shaped, aeration orifice at the plug location, extension of lining, height of u/s cofferdam) the Bidder can boost the discharge capacity of the diversion tunnel thus achieving higher safety during the dry season and extend his working period in the river bed during the transition periods from and to the wet season.

Adequate energy dissipation downstream of the tunnel is required.

Our drawings show the upstream cofferdam crest at level 1154.50 m asl.

Question 19: The Bidder has a branch office in Nepal. Does he still need to appoint a local agent?

Answer 19: No, a Bidder with a branch office in Nepal does not still need to appoint a local agent.

Question 20: Can Microsoft Project (instead of Primavera) be used to prepare the Construction Time Schedule?

Answer 20: The Employer prefers that Primavera be used but Microsoft Project is also acceptable. However, a cash flow and major resources histograms based on the Construction Time Schedule shall be submitted.

Question 21: Is the Powerhouse to be built on a landslide?

Answer 21: No, the Powerhouse shall be built on rock. Part of the slope behind the Powerhouse shall be removed and the slope stabilised.

Question 22: Is the maximum flow through the Desander/Settling Basin 50.8m³/s?

Answer 22: Yes, the maximum operational flow through the Desander/Settling Basin is 50.8m³/s, with the exception of the flushing operations, when the flow is higher.

Question 23: Can the Employer provide the relevant specifications for the Desander/Settling Basin?

Answer 23: The Employer has already provided the necessary specifications for the Desander/Settling Basin in the Bidding Documents.

Question 24: Can an Excel file of the Volume 3 Technical Data Sheets (hydromechanical) be provided to the Bidders?

Answer 24: Yes, an Electronic file of the Volume 3 Technical Data Sheets (hydromechanical) can be provided to the Bidders.

Question 25: Can Alternative Bids be submitted by the Bidders?

Answer 25: No, Alternative Bids cannot be submitted by the Bidders.

Nevertheless, the Bidders should state whether they intend to construct a vertical and a horizontal penstock tunnel between the Surge Tank and the Powerhouse or an inclined tunnel. This choice shall not be considered as an Alternative Bid.

Question 26: Who will get permission to import the explosives needed for the Project?

Answer 26: The Contractor will get permission to import the explosives needed for the Project. The Employer shall assist the Contractor in obtaining these permits.

Question 27: Can the Detailed Project Report, the geological report and the survey report be made available to the Bidders?

Answer 27: The Detailed Project Report, the geological report (including additional information) and the survey report (including additional information) are already included in the Bidding Documents.

Question 28: If correctly tested and proven suitable, can excavated material from the tunnels be used as construction material in the Project?

Answer 28: Yes, correctly tested and suitable excavated material from the tunnels can be used as construction material in the Project. The Contractor shall not pay any additional fees or charges to the Employer for the use of such materials.

Question 29: What is meant by “activity strength” in the construction program?

Answer 29: “Activity strength” in the construction program means the number of persons and the quantity of materials and equipment involved in this activity.