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CLARIFICATION NOTICE No. 1
TVET Technical Support Consultancy
Ref. No: MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008

Issue Date: 7 September 2026

No	Reference of RFA	Question	Response
1.	--	Could MCC please confirm the estimated price budget for the assignment is indeed 2.3 million USD? We noticed that this figure is identical to the estimated price budget for Quality Assurance and Policy Reform procurement (MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3007).	Yes. MCA-Belize confirms that the estimated budget for the TVET Technical Support Consultancy is USD 2.3 Million.
2.	--	Regarding Criterion 4 - Local and Regional Experience ("Experience working in Belize and/or Caribbean small-state education and TVET systems, including understanding of institutional and implementation realities relevant to the assignment") on page 13, can you please confirm that it can be fulfilled by a Sub-consultant, part of the Joint Venture? Or does the lead/prime organisation of the Joint venture should comply with this criterion?	MCA-Belize clarifies that according to the RFO, Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria, Qualification Table, 4. Experience, for 4.2 General & Specific Experience, the indication for Sub-Consultant is: N/A (Not applicable), thus the experience from any sub-consultant shall not be considered for evaluation. According to the same section, in case of Joint Venture, all members combined must meet the requirement in which at least one member must meet each discrete requirement, including the requirement in Criterion 4 Local and Regional Experience.

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3.	Mandatory Criterion 1	Please could you clarify if 'Mandatory Criterion 1: Contract Experience' is fulfilled by our Technical Offer Forms submission? Does it require another response, in addition to the Technical Offer Forms?	As Mandatory Criterion 1 is related to the Offeror's experience, compliance with this criterion will be assessed based on the information provided in Form TECH-4: Experience of the Offeror.
4.	--	What is the start date for the TVET Technical Support Consultancy (MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008) contract delivery?	The estimation is to sign the contract within the offer validity period, approximately between December 2026 – January 2027.
5.	--	We would really appreciate if the job titles and names of those who will be evaluating this tender could be shared. This is to enable us to tailor the tone and language of our response to the audience who will be reading it.	Please note that it is not feasible to disclose the names, positions, or any identifying information of the individuals who will serve on the Technical Evaluation Panel. This information is considered confidential and is not shared with potential offerors in order to preserve the integrity, impartiality, and fairness of the evaluation process. We encourage all offerors to prepare their proposals in accordance with the requirements, evaluation criteria, and instructions provided in the solicitation documents.
6.	--	In light of MCA-Belize's plan to release responses to Offerors' questions approximately two weeks prior to the proposal submission deadline, would MCA-Belize kindly consider extending the proposal due date to allow Offerors sufficient time to review and address any clarifications in their proposal submissions?	The offer submission deadline has been extended. Please refer to Addendum No. 1 to the RFO.

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7.	--	Please clarify whether a Cover Page, Table of Contents and Acronyms List may be included in the proposal and excluded from the stated page limits.	We confirm that cover page, table of contents and acronyms list are not included in the page limit.
8.	--	May offerors use smaller than 12 point font for graphics, tables and charts, diagrams and figures, as long as readability is maintained?	The solicitation document does not establish any restrictions regarding font type, font size, or graphic design elements for the preparation of proposals. Offerors are responsible for ensuring that their submissions are clear, legible, and professionally presented. Proposals may be formatted in the manner that offerors consider most appropriate, provided that all required information is included and readability is maintained.
9.	TECH-9 and TECH-10	Form TECH-9 and TECH-10 Clarification: The Terms of Reference identify a Base Period of Performance of 96 weeks. However, the sample TECH-9 Staffing Schedule and TECH-10 Work and Deliverables Schedule provided in the RFP appear to be formatted in a 12-month period only. Should Offerors expand these forms to reflect the entire 96-week Period of Performance, or should the forms be completed using the 12-month format included in the RFP? If the forms are to be expanded, are Offerors permitted to modify the format as necessary to accurately reflect the full Period of Performance?	Offerors are required to submit a complete staffing and deliverables schedule covering the entire Period of Performance of the Consultancy (96 Weeks). While the schedules should include, at a minimum, the information suggested in the forms, Offerors may adapt or modify the format as they deem appropriate to clearly present their proposed implementation schedule.
10.	TECH-6 and TECH-8	Form TECH-6 and TECH-8 Clarification: Chapter 3, Organization & Staffing instructs Offerors to provide an "allocation of personnel across tasks and	Offerors should provide the information requested in each form, in accordance with the instructions and requirements specified for that form. TECH-6 and

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		deliverables." However, TECH-8 is a form for "Team Composition and Task Assignments." To avoid duplication, please clarify MCA-Belize's expectations regarding these two sections. Should Offerors: - Repeat task assignments in both TECH-6 and TECH-8; - Include the TECH-8 form within the TECH-6 submission; - Reference TECH-8 within the narrative of TECH-6; or - Provide the allocation of personnel across tasks and deliverables in narrative form within TECH-6, with detailed task assignments presented separately in TECH-8? Any guidance on the intended distinction between the requirements of TECH-6 and TECH-8 would be appreciated.	TECH-8 should each be completed as applicable.
11.	TECH-6 and TECH-10	Form TECH-6 and TECH-10 Clarification: Form TECH-6 of the RFP requires Offerors to provide a work plan that includes, "the sequence of activities and major implementation phases including all deliverables, logical sequencing of activities and deliverables, timeline identifying key milestones, coordination arrangements with MCA-Belize, MoECST, and other stakeholders, proposed schedule for consultation, validation workshops, pilot implementation, training, and delivery of final outputs, as well as identification of key assumptions,	Offerors should provide the information requested in each form, in accordance with the instructions and requirements specified for that form. TECH-6 and TECH-10 should each be completed as applicable.

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		dependencies, and mitigation measures.” At the same time, Form TECH-10 (Work and Deliverables Schedule) requires Offeror to present the “main activities of the assignment, including deliverables and other milestones, such as the Accountable Entity approvals,” and notes that, for phased assignments, activities, deliverables and milestones should be presented separately for each phase. Given the apparent overlap between these requirements, and noting that Form TECH-10 will be evaluated as part of the Approach and Methodology, would MCA-Belize please clarify its expectations? Specifically, should Offerors: - Repeat similar work plan information in both TECH-6 and TECH-10; - Incorporate the TECH-10 schedule within the TECH-6 submission; - Reference TECH-10 in the narrative of TECH-6 while avoiding duplication; or - Provide a narrative work plan in TECH-6, with the detailed activity, milestone, and deliverables schedule presented separately in TECH-10? Any guidance regarding the intended distinction between the information to be provided in TECH-6 and TECH-10 would be greatly appreciated.	
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12.	--	Workstream Association Clarification: The TOR references work-based learning under workstreams A (Operationalization of the NTA), B (Strengthening Industry Engagement and Sector Skills Councils), and C (Strengthening TVET Delivery and Workforce Transition Systems). However, the deliverables include a Work-Based Learning and Workforce Transition Framework. Could MCA-Belize please clarify under which workstream this deliverable is expected to be primarily associated? Alternatively, should Offerors treat this deliverable as a cross-cutting activity that spans multiple workstreams and reflect it accordingly in their technical approach, staffing, work plan, and deliverables schedule? Any guidance on the intended placement and scope of this deliverable within the workstreams would be greatly appreciated.	This deliverable should be considered as a cross-cutting activity that spans multiple workstreams to support the ultimate goal of establishing and operationalizing the NTA.
13.	--	Can MCA-Belize confirm whether the National TVET Act is expected to be enacted prior to commencement of the consultancy? If available, will the successful consultant be provided with the latest draft or enacted version of the legislation?	Belize's national TVET Bill is currently going through the required legislative process. MCA is unaware of any issue that may stymie the Bill's progress at this time and therefore remains confident that the Bill shall be enacted by end of September 2026. MCA is, however, not authorised to release any version of the proposed legislation at this time. It is the expectation that once enacted, the Bill will be published and available to all.

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14.	--	Does MCA-Belize anticipate that the National Training Authority will have an Executive Director and core operational staff in place during the base period of the consultancy? If so, what is the anticipated implementation timeline?	The current bill going through the required legislative process requires the establishment of a Board of Directors and a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director. Once enacted, it is expected that the NTA shall be established as an autonomous, entity with complementary staffing. As such, MCA expects that the Secretariat will have its key members, and the Board of Directors operational during the base period of the consultancy.
15.	--	Can MCA-Belize clarify the project governance and oversight arrangements, including the expected reporting structure, composition of the project management/steering committee, approval processes for deliverables, and the anticipated frequency of technical and progress review meetings?	MCA-Belize's management, oversight and governance of the TVET consultants, deliverables and outcomes shall be undertaken primarily by the Director, TVET Education, in collaboration with other members of MCA and the Government of Belize. MCC will also review key deliverables. Prospective consultants are advised to expect regular, timely and ongoing progress reviews and reporting throughout the life of the consultancy.

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16.	--	During the pilot phase, is the Consultant expected to support implementation of an initial grant cycle, or is Deliverable 8 limited to testing the grant management systems and procedures?	As stated in the RFP, during the base performance period (96 weeks) the consultant is expected to “Design the operational procedures and guidelines for a grant facility to support demand-driven TVET programmes, including eligibility criteria, proposal evaluation procedures, grant management processes... and the monitoring framework for the NTA’s grant facility.” This deliverable is due by Week 56. Based upon the projected timelines, MCA-Belize is hopeful that the pilot of these elements by the NTA will occur in efficient succession, but there is no stated expectation for the pilot of said to be completed by the consultant during the base period.
17.	--	Can MCA-Belize clarify whether the Consultant is expected to develop detailed staffing documentation, including job descriptions, competency profiles, roles and responsibilities, and recruitment support, or whether the assignment is limited to preparation of the organisational structure and staffing plan?	As stated in the RFP, during the base performance period (96 weeks), the consultant is expected to “Develop a comprehensive institutional framework for the National Training Authority, that includes the Authority’s governance arrangements, organizational structure, staffing plans, operational procedures, and the institutional capacity-building measures necessary for the Authority to effectively assume its statutory responsibilities.” It is thus MCA-Belize's expectation that the consultant (in collaboration with the NTA) develops the organisational structure, job descriptions, competency profiles, roles and responsibilities required for the NTA.

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18.	--	Has MCC pre-approved the non-competitive method for approving the potential Optional Services contracts or will MCA Belize have to go through High Level Review for each potential Optional Services contract?	Should Optional Services be required, MCA-Belize will obtain all necessary approvals in accordance with the applicable requirements before exercising or authorizing such services.
19.	TECH-9	Please clarify the definitions of Foreign/Local/Support staff in TECH 9. For example, can foreign staff also perform support roles?	For the purposes of TECH 9, the personnel categories should be understood as follows: Foreign Staff: Personnel recruited internationally who are neither nationals nor habitual residents of the country where the assignment will be carried out. Local Staff: Personnel who are nationals or habitual residents of the country where the assignment will be carried out and are recruited locally. Support Staff: Personnel providing administrative, logistical, operational, financial, secretarial, or other support services necessary for the implementation of the assignment. Yes, foreign personnel may be assigned to support roles. The distinction between Foreign Staff and Local Staff relates to the origin of recruitment and residency status of the personnel, whereas Support Staff refers to the nature of the functions performed. Therefore, these categories are not mutually exclusive, and foreign personnel may perform support functions where appropriate.
20.	GCC 17.3	Deliverables, Acceptance, and Payment Schedule Clarification under CGG 17.3: The RFP states that payments are tied to MCA-Belize's written acceptance of deliverables and that deliverable due	a. The number of stakeholder organizations and reviewing parties will be defined and based upon the specific deliverables. MCA currently expects most deliverables to be

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		dates are calculated from the Contract Commencement/Effective Date, regardless of the timing of review or acceptance of prior deliverables. Given that certain activities under the Scope of Services may require input, review, approvals, decisions, data, access, or other actions from MCA-Belize, MCC, the Ministry, or other stakeholders, please clarify: - Approximately how many stakeholder organizations and reviewing parties are expected to participate in the review and approval process for consultant deliverables? - If a deliverable is delayed, revised, or cannot be finalized due to the absence of required actions, approvals, information, feedback, or decisions from MCA-Belize, MCC, MoECST, or other government stakeholders, will the corresponding deliverable due dates and payment milestones be adjusted accordingly? - In situations where the Consultant has completed the required work and submitted the deliverable on time, but acceptance is delayed due to stakeholder review timelines, requests for input, or dependencies outside the Consultant's control, how will such delays affect payment eligibility and overall contract performance timelines? - Is there a mechanism under the contract for extending deliverable deadlines and associated payment milestones when delays are attributable to government or	reviewed by MCA, the NTA, and MCC. However, depending on the deliverable, additional reviewers may be utilised. - MCA confirms that there is some flexibility to adjust deliverable due dates and payment milestones. However, the established timeline for compact implementation must be acknowledged and therefore all efforts will be made to review and respond to deliverables efficiently and to adhere to approved workplans and schedules. - As noted above, MCA's interest is to adhere to approved workplans and timelines; in situations where this is not possible, timelines and deliverable schedules may be revised. - As noted above, if deliverables and payment schedules need to be revised, MCA will do so. Once onboarded, MCA's advice to the consultant is to work closely with MCA and the NTA in the development of each deliverable so that the review and approval process will go smoothly.
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		stakeholder actions rather than Consultant performance? The purpose of this question is to better understand how schedule and payment risks will be managed when successful completion of a deliverable is dependent on actions or approvals from parties other than the Consultant.	
21.	--	Will the consultants be embedded within the MoECST or should we budget for them to be located in their own office?	Prospective consultants are advised to budget for their own offices and resourcing.
22.	--	Please clarify what is meant by piloting “mechanisms for industry participation in curriculum development, programme review, and training delivery” since the process of curriculum development, and training delivery would occur over a timeframe outside of the project.	A critical tenet of quality TVET systems is active, ongoing industry involvement. As such, the RFP requires that the consultant “Pilots and establishes the mechanisms for industry participation...” across a range of NTA’s technical operations. As such, although the actual bulk of the curriculum development and program delivery may happen after the base period of the compact, MCA anticipates some levels of feasible piloting of the developed mechanisms and processes et cetera, can occur during the base period.
23.	--	The TOR requires the Consultant to “design and pilot mechanisms and procedures for the development, adaptation, revision, and quality assurance of competency-based curricula and training programmes aligned with labour-market demand, 21st Century skills, and high-quality national, regional, and international standards, including Caribbean	For purposes of this assignment, the requirement to “design and pilot mechanisms and procedures for the development, adaptation, revision, and quality assurance of competency-based curricula and training programmes” should be understood as requiring the consultant to pilot and validate the proposed mechanisms, processes, tools, and procedures in a manner most feasible

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		Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) where appropriate.” Could MCA-Belize please clarify the intended scope of the term “pilot” in this context? Specifically, while the requirement appears to focus on the design of mechanisms, procedures, and quality assurance systems, a pilot could be interpreted as involving the actual development, implementation, testing, evaluation, and revision of competency-based curricula and training programmes. Such activities could be resource-intensive and may extend beyond the timeline and scope of this assignment. Please confirm whether Offerors are expected to: a) Pilot the proposed mechanisms and procedures only, using selected curriculum development processes or case-study applications to demonstrate functionality; or b) Develop, implement, test, and revise one or more full competency-based curricula and training programmes as part of the pilot. Any guidance on the expected level of effort, scale of piloting, and anticipated outputs would be appreciated.	and applicable to the NTA's operational requirements. MCA appreciates that the testing, and validating of the complete development and implementation cycles of a full course may extend beyond the base period. However, there remains an expectation that some level of feasible piloting of the developed mechanisms and processes et cetera, can occur during the base period.
24.	--	The TOR includes activities related to the establishment and operationalization of the National Training Agency (NTA), which will likely require the recruitment and onboarding of key NTA personnel. Can MCA-Belize please clarify the anticipated role of the Contractor in supporting the recruitment of NTA staff?	As stated in the RFP, during the base performance period (96 weeks), the consultant is expected to “Develop a comprehensive institutional framework for the National Training Authority, that includes the Authority’s governance arrangements, organizational structure, staffing plans, operational procedures, and

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		Specifically, should Offerors assume responsibility for activities such as developing job descriptions, defining qualifications and competency requirements, supporting recruitment planning, participating in candidate evaluations, onboarding, and/or capacity-building of newly recruited staff? Or is the Contractor's role expected to be limited to advisory and technical support, with recruitment and hiring decisions remaining solely the responsibility of MCA-Belize, the NTA, or the relevant government authorities? Any guidance regarding the expected level of involvement in NTA staffing and recruitment activities would be greatly appreciated.	the institutional capacity-building measures necessary for the Authority to effectively assume its statutory responsibilities.” It is thus MCA-Belize's expectation that the consultant (in collaboration with the NTA) develops the organisational structure, job descriptions, competency profiles, roles and responsibilities required for the NTA. The recruitment of staff, candidate evaluations, and onboarding are not the expected role of the consultant.
25.	--	Could MCA-Belize consider allowing Offerors to use font size 10 in tables, textboxes, and graphics?	Please refer to Response No. 8.
26.	Section III	Under Section III, Subsection A. Technical Offer (page 9), “Offeror” is defined as the “Offeror or (in the case of joint venture) each entity forming the Offeror”. As such, could MCA-Belize confirm that the mandatory experience requirements required under Mandatory Criteria (Pass/Fail) Criterion 1 shall be satisfied by the combined experience from each entity forming a joint venture submitted as the Offeror.	In accordance with the joint venture qualification requirements stated in Section III, Mandatory Criterion 1 may be satisfied through the combined experience of the entities forming the joint venture.

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27.	Section IV A	Form TECH-4. Experience of the Offeror (page 37): TECH-4 instructions states, “Using the format below, provide information on each relevant assignment... for carrying out consulting services similar to the ones requested under the Terms of Reference included in this RFO. This shall include all MCC-funded assignments of a similar nature. Failure to include experience in any project where MCC funds were used may result in disqualification of the Offer. The Offer must demonstrate that the Offeror has a proven track record of successful experience in executing projects similar in substance, complexity, value, duration, and volume of services sought in this procurement.” • Could MCA-Belize clarify that Offerors shall include in the TECH-4 tables: a) Only relevant MCC-funded assignments that are of similar nature and have taken place within the last 7 years? - Or b) All MCC-funded assignments of a similar nature, regardless of when they were completed, noting that all MCC-funded assignments are required in TECH-5.	For TECH-4 Experience of the Offeror, the required information of MCC funded assignments, if any, refers only to similar assignments to the ones requested under the Terms of reference. Information of all assignments funded by MCC, of any nature, must be included in TECH-5 References of MCC-Funded Contracts.
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28.	Section IV A	Question 4. Form TECH-4. Experience of the Offeror (page 37): The table template requires Offerors to provide client reference letters. • Would MCA-Belize consider making this an optional requirement, given that the 2025 U.S. Government review and termination of foreign assistance programs resulted in the dissolution of USAID, leaving many Offerors without access to one of their main clients for obtaining references? Or • Would MCA-Belize allow for alternative forms of recorded past performance, such as letters of recommendation from non-client sources (e.g., a government ministry counterpart) or other types of client project performance assessments (e.g., U.S. Government's Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System [CPARS]).	Offerors are required to provide supporting documentation demonstrating their experience in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Request for Offers (RFO). Where the specific documentation referenced in the RFO is not available, Offerors may submit other documentation that is available to substantiate the experience being claimed. MCA-Belize will review and evaluate all supporting documentation submitted as part of the proposal and reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion and consistent with the requirements of the RFO, whether the documentation provided is sufficient and acceptable to substantiate the claimed experience.
29.	Section V	Key Personnel (page 76): Would MCA-Belize consider allowing the Key Personnel positions to be based remotely (regionally or internationally)—with frequent travel to Belize to support project implementation, quality assurance, and engagement with key stakeholders—to broaden the pool of highly qualified candidates and enable Offerors to propose experts with the strongest technical expertise and relevant regional experience?	MCA-Belize maintains that the Consultant is free to propose a multidisciplinary team with the expertise required to design and implement reforms related to TVET governance, industry engagement, training delivery, and labour market systems. However, the proposed team shall include, at a minimum, the Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist, as in-country personnel.

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30.	Section V	Key Personnel (page 76): Could MCA-Belize please clarify if it expects the Team Leader/ TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist to be full-time for the full period of performance, or whether intermittent/variable LOE is acceptable if aligned to the work plan and deliverables.	MCA-Belize maintains that the Consultant is free to propose a multidisciplinary team with the expertise required to design and implement reforms related to TVET governance, industry engagement, training delivery, and labour market systems. However, the proposed team shall include, at a minimum, the Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist, as in-country personnel. These experts need to be readily available and in-country for at least the base period.
31.	Section VI Special Conditions of Contract (SCC)	GCC 10.5 (page 81): Could MCA-Belize please confirm whether it expects the Team Leader/TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist to also serve as the resident project manager, or whether this may be a separate non-key position?	MCA-Belize maintains that the Consultant is free to propose a multidisciplinary team with the expertise required to design and implement reforms related to TVET governance, industry engagement, training delivery, and labour market systems. However, the proposed team shall include, at a minimum, the Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist, as in-country personnel. The Team Leader is considered the resident project manager.

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32.	--	For the TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist position, it is required “at least seven (7) years of experience in the development or implementation of TVET quality assurance systems, accreditation frameworks, national vocational qualifications frameworks, or regulatory systems for training providers”. Can you please confirm that training providers in these ToR refer to TVET schools, high schools, tertiary institutions, or other public and private training providers?	TVET providers in this context refer to any organization or institution that provides education, training and/or skills development services
33.	--	Can you please provide a list of countries that would fit into the definition of “Caribbean-small state education and TVET systems”? (see page 13, local and regional experience)	MCA is not in possession of a list of such countries.
34.	--	Regarding Criterion 4 - Local and Regional Experience ("Experience working in Belize and/or Caribbean small-state education and TVET systems, including understanding of institutional and implementation realities relevant to the assignment") on page 13, can you please confirm that it can be fulfilled by a Member of the Joint Venture or a Sub-Consultant? Or does the lead/prime organisation of the Joint venture should also comply with this criterion?	Please refer to Section III Qualification Table, 4.2 General & Specific Experience, regarding the evaluation of the information presented by a Joint Venture; The same section states that the experience of Sub-Consultants is not applicable.

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35.	--	Should the Resident project manager be Belizean or can he/she be International? Is it expected to be a full-time position?	MCA has no expectations related to the nationality of any personnel. The Team Leader is to serve as the resident project manager and is expected to be full-time in-country for the duration of this contract/base period.
36.	--	The TOR requires establishment of three Sector Skills Councils in selected economic sectors based on labour-market demand and national development priorities but does not identify these. Is the offeror expected to describe a process to identify the sectors, or have sectors already been pre-selected by the Belizean authorities and/or MCA-Belize?	The priority sectors related to the creation of the three initial Sector Skills Councils will be finalized after the establishment of the NTA.
37.	--	The TOR includes design of a demand-driven TVET grant facility. Is funding already allocated for the grant facility? What is the anticipated grant budget?	The grant facility will be established in collaboration with the NTA. The consultant is expected to help establish the grant facility but will not be responsible for operating or managing it. The MCA confirms that the funding for the grants will not be borne by the Consultant. MCA is unable to provide the anticipated grant budget at this time.

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38.	--	The TOR requires the development of data systems and monitoring mechanisms. Is software development and implementation expected under Deliverable 6 or only system design? Does the NTA have a software budget, or are full establishment costs expected to be included under the contract?	As per the RFO, the contractor is expected to work with MoECST and the NTA to develop a methodology, data collection instruments, reporting templates and implementation plan for conducting graduate tracer studies and mechanisms for capturing employer feedback on the performance of TVET graduates. This includes strengthening data systems related to TVET and integrating these systems with existing national data platforms, including the BEMIS. As such, large software development or purchase of systems are not costs expected to be borne by the contractor.
39.	--	What is the current legal and operational status of the NTA and when is establishment expected?	Belize's national TVET Bill is currently going through the required legislative process. This Bill will establish the NTA. MCA-Belize remains confident that the Bill shall be enacted by the end of September 2026. It is the expectation that once enacted, the Bill will be published and available to all.
40.	--	Are both the Team Leader and the TVET Governance Specialist expected to be full-time and based in Belize for the duration of the contract?	As per the RFO, the Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist, are required to be based in-country for the duration of the base period.
41.	FIN-2	The Fin-2 form states, "if the RFO contains options, the options will be fully priced and evaluated at 100%". Since earlier guidance in the RFP (pg. 72) states, "The Optional Services identified in this ToR are not part of the Base Services and not part of the scope	Offerors shall not include price information for optional services in Form FIN-2 or any financial form.

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		of the contract now authorized for execution unless and until formally exercised by MCA-Belize”, please confirm that offerors should not submit price information for optional services.	
42.	--	What review time should bidders assume for MCA-Belize, MoECST, MCC, and future NTA approvals?	MCA’s advice to the consultant is to work closely with MCA and the NTA in the development of each deliverable so that the review and approval process will go smoothly.
43.	--	Following our review of the RFP and considering the scope and complexity of the assignment, we would respectfully request that MCA-Belize consider extending the current OAer submission deadline of 31 August 2026 by at least three (3) weeks, preferably to 21 September 2026. We note that, according to the RFP, responses to clarification requests are expected to be issued by 17 August 2026, leaving only approximately two weeks for bidders to fully assess and incorporate these responses before the current submission deadline. Given the strategic importance of the assignment, an additional three weeks would provide prospective bidders with adequate time to properly integrate the clarifications into their technical and financial OAers, finalize the mobilization of the required expertise, and develop a comprehensive and fully responsive methodology, staAing arrangement, and implementation work plan. We believe that this additional time would contribute to the preparation of robust,	The offer submission deadline has been extended. Please refer to Addendum No. 1 to the RFO.

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		competitive, and high quality oAers, ultimately supporting MCA-Belize in achieving the best possible outcome from this procurement process.	
44.	ITO 17.1	ITO 17.1(c)/(f): Will MCA-Belize confirm receipt of Dropbox uploads, is there a required file-naming convention, and may the technical offer be split across multiple files?	MCA-Belize is unable to provide individual confirmation of receipt because the Dropbox File Request does not provide sufficient information to identify or contact the uploader, and submitted Offers cannot be accessed before the official opening. Offerors should ensure that the upload is completed before the submission deadline and retain evidence of successful submission. No mandatory file-naming convention is specified in the RFO. However, clear filenames identifying the procurement reference, Offeror's name, and file type are recommended, For example: 26-3008_[Offeror Name] _Technical Offer.pdf In accordance with ITO 17.1(f), the Technical Offer and Financial Offer must be submitted as separate files, each not exceeding 10GB. Therefore, the Technical Offer should be submitted as one file and should not be split across multiple files. Compressed or archived files are discouraged.
45.	--	Criterion 3 allocates 25 points across the two Key Personnel positions identified in ToR §7, while ToR §7 also provides that the Consultant may propose additional short-term experts. Please confirm (i) whether CVs for such additional experts should be submitted, in what form, and whether they count	i. CVs of proposed additional short-term experts are not required for submission. ii. Only the Key Personnel indicated in Section III Qualification and Evaluation Criteria is subject of evaluation, for criterion 3. Key Personnel Qualification and Experience.

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		against the TECH-6 page limit; and (ii) whether the qualifications and proposed deployment of additional experts will be taken into account under sub-criteria 2.3 and 2.6 concerning organization, staffing and allocation of personnel across tasks.	
46.	GCC 10.5	SCC GCC 10.5 states that a resident project manager shall be required for the duration of the Contract. Section 7 of the Terms of Reference identifies two Key Personnel positions (Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist, and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist) and describes these as in-country key personnel. Please confirm whether the resident project manager requirement under SCC GCC 10.5 may be satisfied by one of the two named Key Personnel positions, or whether MCA-Belize requires a separate individual, additional to the two Key Personnel, to be resident in Belize for the 96-week Base Period.	The resident project manager referenced in SCC GCC 10.5 is the Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist.
47.	--	Please confirm whether cover pages, tables of contents, lists of acronyms and abbreviations, section dividers and signature pages count against the page limits specified for Forms TECH-3, TECH-4, TECH-6 and TECH-7, or whether such front matter may be presented at the level of the overall Technical Offer without counting against any individual form's page limit. Please also confirm how MCA-Belize	We confirm that cover pages and table of contents are not included in the page limit.

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		will treat pages submitted in excess of a stated limit.	
48.	TECH-4	Form Tech-4 Questions: Please confirm: i. whether Offerors should expressly identify in Form TECH-4 which contracts are submitted in satisfaction of Mandatory Criterion 1, and whether a particular format is preferred for doing so; ii. that USG Federal Contractor Performance Assessment Reports (CPARs), or equivalent official client performance evaluations, will be accepted in substitution for the client reference letter contemplated in Form TECH-4, including for purposes of Mandatory Criterion 1. iii. whether CPARs are required for every assignment listed in Form TECH-4 or only for those relied upon under Mandatory Criterion 1, and whether these supporting documentation count against the 20-page limit. iv. whether the experience of a nominated Sub-Consultant, documented in Form TECH-4, will be taken into account in the technical evaluation, noting that Qualification Table 4.2 records "N/A" against Sub-Consultant while the instructions to Form TECH-4 direct Offerors to use that form to document Sub-Consultant experience proposed to satisfy a specialized requirement under Factor 4.2, and if so, whether	i) Offerors may identify, in whatever format they consider appropriate, the experience that, in their opinion, satisfies Mandatory Criterion 1. However, MCA-Belize reserves the right to review and evaluate the information provided and to determine whether such experience, or any other experience presented in the proposal, meets the requirements of Mandatory Criterion 1 and the applicable mandatory requirements of the RFO. ii) Offerors are responsible for submitting sufficient documentation to satisfy the client reference requirement stated in Form TECH-4. The Offeror must ensure that the submitted documentation adequately demonstrates the relevant assignment, the Offeror's role, the services performed, and successful performance. MCA-Belize will assess the sufficiency of the documentation during the evaluation in accordance with the requirements of the RFO. iii) CPARs are not specifically required by the RFO. Offerors are responsible for providing sufficient client reference documentation for each assignment presented in Form TECH-4 and relied upon to demonstrate the Offeror's experience, including compliance with Mandatory Criterion 1 and the other applicable scored technical evaluation criteria. Client reference letters, and

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		such experience may contribute to the scored sub-criteria under Criterion 1.	other supporting evidence will not count against the 20-page limit applicable to the completed Form TECH-4. iv) Please refer to Response No. 2.
49.	TECH-6	Form Tech-6 Questions ToR §3.A includes, among the services to be provided, the design and operationalization of the National Vocational Qualifications Framework. Deliverable 4 requires only an assessment of the feasibility of adopting or adapting the RVQF as against development of a wholly independent National Qualifications Framework, together with recommendations and a proposed roadmap. No deliverable in Table 1 appears to require submission of the framework itself. Please confirm whether design and operationalization of the NVQF forms part of the Base Services to be priced by Offerors and, if so, under which deliverable it is to be submitted and accepted for purposes of payment under GCC 17.3.	Deliverable 4: TVET Quality, Accreditation and Programme Oversight Framework of the RFO requires that the consultant “...shall assess the feasibility of Belize adopting and/or adapting the existing Regional Vocational Qualifications Framework (RVQF) as a foundation for national implementation. This assessment shall include analysis of institutional, regulatory, technical, and operational implications; recommendations regarding adaptation requirements for the Belizean context; and a proposed roadmap and milestones for implementation should adoption or adaption be deemed feasible. The assessment shall compare the benefits, risks, resource implications, and implementation timelines associated with adoption/adaptation of the RVQF versus development of a wholly independent National Qualifications Framework.’ There is no expectation that the consultant is to develop and submit an NQF for Belize during the base period.
50.	--	Will MCA-Belize share with all offerors: the National TVET Policy (2025) and the draft National TVET Act?	Belize’s National TVET Policy is readily available to members of the public/vendors on the MCA-Belize website. The following is the link to the report. https://mcabelize.bz/documents/policies-regulations/

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			Additionally, Belize's national TVET Bill is currently going through the required legislative process. MCA-Belize is confident that the Bill shall be enacted by the end of September 2026. MCA is, however, not authorised to release any version of the legislature at this time. It is the expectation that once enacted, the Bill will be published and available to all.
51.	--	Financial Proposal Questions Ref: Form FIN-2, note 2; ITO 25.6; ToR §6: Please confirm whether Offerors are required to price the Optional Services described in ToR §6 and referenced under Form Fin-2, note 2, and, if so, in what format and whether such prices form part of the Evaluated Financial Offer Price.	Please refer to Response No. 41.
52.	--	In the Pre-Offer Conference, MCC mentioned to avoid unrealistic level of effort in the proposal. The current Financial Offer forms in Section IV B do not require any level of effort information. Could MCC confirm if the contractor could modify Form FIN-3 (Breakdown of Rates) to add level of effort for personnel?	Level of Effort should be described in Form TECH-9 Staffing Schedule (Key Professional Personnel and Support Staff) and this information must be consistent with any breakdown provided in Section IV B Financial Forms.
53.	--	Please confirm that the Contractor could add price narratives to justify prices proposed under Form FIN-3.	Offerors can add narratives, explanations or justifications that they deem necessary to support the information provided in the Financial Offer Forms. Price information/narrative shall not be included in the Technical Offer Forms.

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54.	--	Could MCC provide more details on the expected travel for the local and international personnel?	The amount of travel for both local and international personnel is dependent on the offeror's proposal and personnel. MCA-Belize expects the offeror to propose and budget for the travel necessary to implement the tasks within the budget ceiling allowed.
55.	--	Please confirm (i) whether the costs of workshops, training events, consultations and validation exercises (including venue hire, materials, and travel, per diem and subsistence for participants who are not Consultant personnel) are to be borne by the Consultant within the Total Price; and (ii) whether MCA-Belize is able to provide indicative planning parameters, including the anticipated number of events, number of participants and geographic coverage, so that Offerors price on a common basis.	Workshops, training events, validation exercises, etc. are expected to be borne by the consultant within the total price. The number and frequency of these are to be proposed by the consultant according to their approach.
56.	--	Please confirm that the stated \$2.3 million budget is for basic services only and that funding for the Optional Services identified in the ToR will be in addition to the \$2.3 million budget for the basic services.	MCA-Belize confirms that the estimated budget of USD 2,300,000 is for the Base Services.

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57.	--	In Form F-2 Price Summary, #2 states: "If the RFO contains options, the options will be fully priced and evaluated at 100%." Given that the RFO includes optional services, could MCA Belize kindly confirm the following formatting requirements: a. Are Offerors required to submit separate, distinct budget forms (separate Forms FIN-2 and FIN-3) for the Optional Services, rather than consolidating them into the base contract forms? b. If separate forms are required, should each individual Optional Service be priced on its own independent set of FIN-2 and FIN-3 forms? c. If separate forms are not required, should the options be listed as separate line items within a single, unified Form FIN-2 and FIN-3?	Please refer to Response No. 41.
58.	--	While reviewing the solicitation documents for the following procurements, we noted that both indicate the same estimated budget of USD 2,300,000 under ITO 12.4(c): • MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3007 – Quality Assurance and Policy Reform • MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008 – TVET Technical Support Consultancy Could you please confirm whether the estimated budget of USD 2,300,000 is correct for each procurement?	The Estimated Budget indicated for TVET Technical Support Consultancy is correct.

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59.	--	We would also appreciate clarification regarding participation in both procurements. Could you please confirm whether the same firm may participate as a joint venture or consortium member in both procurements as part of a different consortium for each assignment, provided that it participates in only one offer per procurement?	Procurements MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3007 and MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008 are independent procurement processes. There is no restriction preventing a firm from participating in both procurements, whether individually or as a member of a joint venture, consortium, or association, provided that it submits only one offer per procurement. Offerors are advised to refer to Clause 5 (Conflict of Interest) of the Instructions to Offerors to ensure they are fully informed of any actual or potential conflict of interest situations that may apply.
60.	--	With reference to the TVET Technical Support Consultancy (RFO Ref. MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008), We would be grateful for your clarification regarding the eligibility of an individual expert who previously contributed to the design of the Education Project in Belize. More specifically, could you please confirm whether an individual who: • was not an employee of MCC; • was not an employee of MCA-Belize; • was not an employee of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MoECST); but • participated as an independent consultant engaged by a consulting firm contracted by MCA Belize to provide technical assistance in support of the design of the Education Project, would be eligible to be proposed as an expert under the present TVET Technical Support Consultancy, provided that the individual otherwise	MCA-Belize appreciates the prospective Offeror's proactive disclosure of a potential conflict of interest and its efforts to ensure compliance with the applicable procurement requirements set forth in ITO 5.10. In keeping with the framework established in the Solicitation Document, MCA-Belize does not issue advance determinations regarding the eligibility of proposed personnel or the existence of actual or potential conflicts of interest prior to the submission and evaluation of Offers. Offerors are responsible for reviewing the relevant provisions of the Solicitation Document, Section I Instructions to Offerors, 5 Eligible Consultants, Conflict of Interest, 5.8 and 5.9, including those relating to eligibility, conflicts of interest, and unfair competitive advantage, and for assessing the applicability of such provisions to their proposed personnel.

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		meets the applicable qualification and eligibility requirements? In particular, we would appreciate confirmation as to whether such prior involvement in the design of the Education Project would constitute a conflict of interest under ITO Clauses 5.8 and 5.9, or otherwise affect the individual's eligibility to participate in the present assignment.	Any matters relating to eligibility or potential conflicts of interest will be considered, as applicable, during the evaluation of Offers based on the information submitted and the requirements of the Solicitation Document. We encourage prospective offerors to avoid any potential or actual conflict of interest.
61.	--	Whether [] is eligible to participate as an Offeror/Consulting Entity under Procurement Reference MCA-B/EDU/QCBS/26/3008, notwithstanding that [] is an intergovernmental international organization and is not incorporated or registered as a commercial entity under the domestic company laws of any particular country.	MCA-Belize does not make determinations regarding the eligibility of prospective Offerors prior to the submission and evaluation of Offers. Offerors are responsible for reviewing the eligibility requirements set forth in the Request for Offers and determining whether they meet all applicable eligibility criteria. Eligibility will be assessed by MCA-Belize as part of the evaluation process based on the Offer submitted and the requirements established in the Solicitation Document. Accordingly, MCA-Belize is not in a position to provide advance confirmation regarding the eligibility of any specific prospective Offeror.
62.	--	Whether []'s status as an intergovernmental organization headquartered in the Philippines satisfies the applicable nationality, legal-status and eligibility requirements under the relevant MCA-Belize/MCC procurement framework.	Please refer to Response No. 61.

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63.	--	Whether [] would be permitted to participate as the prime Offeror for this procurement.	Please refer to Response No. 61.
64.	--	If [] is not eligible to participate as a prime Offeror, whether it may participate as a Joint Venture/Association member, consortium partner or sub-consultant with another eligible consulting entity.	Please refer to Response No. 61.
65.	--	Whether there are any specific documentary requirements through which [] should demonstrate its legal status, establishment under the Colombo Plan, international/intergovernmental character, institutional mandate and technical eligibility for purposes of this procurement.	Please refer to Response No. 61
66.	--	Application of the Joint Venture requirements under Sub-Factor 4.2 Under Sub-Factor 4.2, the Joint Venture columns indicate that “All members combined” must meet the requirement, while another entry states “Must meet each discrete requirement.” Could you please clarify how these two provisions are intended to operate together? More specifically, to what extent may the experience of the different Joint Venture members be aggregated or combined to satisfy the requirements of Sub-Factor 4.2, and to what extent must a particular requirement be satisfied in full by a single Joint Venture member?	Experience may be aggregated across Joint Venture members to satisfy the overall requirements of Sub-Factor 4.2. However, each discrete requirement under Sub-Factor 4.2 must be fully satisfied by at least one Joint Venture member. Partial experience from multiple members may not be combined to meet a single discrete requirement. For example, one member may satisfy Requirement A while another satisfies Requirement B, but two members may not combine their respective partial experience to collectively satisfy Requirement A.

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67.	--	Meaning of “each discrete requirement” Could you please clarify what is meant by “each discrete requirement” in the context of Sub-Factor 4.2 and identify the specific qualification or experience requirements to which this provision applies?	The term “each discrete requirement” refers to each individual qualification or experience requirement included in Section III. While the Joint Venture may rely on the combined qualifications and experience of its members to demonstrate overall compliance with Sub-Factor 4.2, each individual requirement must be fully satisfied by at least one Joint Venture member. Partial qualifications or experience from multiple Joint Venture members may not be combined to satisfy a single individual requirement. Accordingly, the provision applies to all individual qualification and experience requirements set forth under Sub-Factor 4.2. Different Joint Venture members may satisfy different requirements; however, each requirement must be met in full by at least one Joint Venture member.
68.	--	Reference to “A.2. Detailed Technical Evaluation Criteria” Sub-Factors 4.1 and 4.2 both refer to “the table of criteria under A.2. Detailed Technical Evaluation Criteria.” However, in Section III of the RFP, A.2 is entitled “Financial Criteria – Not Applicable,” while the technical evaluation criteria appear elsewhere in the section. Could you please confirm the section and table of the RFP to which the references under Sub-Factors 4.1 and 4.2 are intended to refer?	The reference to “A.2. Detailed Technical Evaluation Criteria” in Sub-Factors 4.1 and 4.2 appears to be an incorrect cross-reference. The reference to “A.2” was a typographical error and does not refer to “A.2. Financial Criteria – Not Applicable.” MCA-Belize is reviewing this matter and, if required, any amendment to the RFP will be formally communicated to all Offerors through an addendum.

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69.	FIN-2	FIN-2. Does <i>Base Services</i> only include professional fees?	FIN-2 should include all rates and costs required for the implementation of the consultancy services in accordance with the Terms of Reference and the proposed methodology/approach. No subsequent adjustments to the proposed rates or costs will be permitted.
70.	--	The Form does not facilitate budget lines for other direct expenditure, e.g. training, material production, media campaign, etc. Should these costs be added to the <i>Base Cost</i> to arrive at the <i>Final price</i> ?	Offerors must add all the costs that they consider for a Financial Offer in line with their Technical Offer.
71.	FIN-3	FIN-3. On Fully Loaded prices. There are administrative overheads that are not attached to individuals specifically, but rather to the general administration of the project. Should the costs be added to the <i>Base Cost</i> in arriving at the <i>Final Price</i> ?	Please refer to Response No. 70.
72.	--	If a SAIP (Supplemental Administrative Information Package) applies to this procurement, could MCA-Belize please provide the applicable SAIP or indicate where it may be accessed?	No Supplemental Administrative Information Package (SAIP) applies to this procurement. All applicable requirements and information are contained in the solicitation documents and issued clarifications.
73.	TECH-1	In Form TECH-1. Technical Offer Submission Form, under Annex 4. Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form (BODF) (page 26-29) , the instructions state the following regarding how to indicate the “Name of the Offeror” and the “Name of the person duly authorized to sign the Offer	Offerors are requested to follow the instructions provided in the solicitation documents and the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form (BODF), including the guidance specifically applicable to Joint Ventures.

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	on behalf of the Offeror” in case the Offer is submitted by a Joint Venture. Name of the Offeror: *[insert complete name of the Offeror] Name of the person duly authorized to sign the Offer on behalf of the Offeror: **[insert complete name of person duly authorized to sign the Offer] * In the case of the Offer submitted by a Joint Venture specify the name of the Joint Venture as Offeror. In the event that the Offeror is a joint venture, each reference to “Offeror” in the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form shall be read to refer to the joint venture member. ** Person signing the Offer shall have the power of attorney given by the Offeror. The power of attorney shall be attached. • Question 1: Could MCA-Belize clarify that if two organizations intend on forming a Joint Venture, but have not officially formed one yet, if the BODF documents that each intended JV member will submit should: ○ A) Refer to the “Name of Offeror” as the name of that individual organization, and not the name of the JV since it has not been formally established? ○ B) Have the signatory of the BODF be an authorized representative from each respective JV member organization?	
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74.	TECH-3	In Form TECH-3. Organization of the Offeror (page 36), the instructions state to include an “organization chart of your firm/entity as well as the Association and each Associate, as applicable.” Under Section III. Organization and Staffing of Form TECH-6. Description of Approach, Methodology and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment (page 39), the instructions state that Offerors shall provide, “an organizational structure (organigram) for the proposed assignment.” • Question 2: Can MCA-Belize confirm if the organizational charts requested in TECH-3 and TECH-6 are both asking for an organizational breakdown of the proposed assignment’s field team and the Offeror’s home office support structure? ○ If not, can MCA-Belize clarify the difference it expects to see between the two organigrams?	Offerors are requested to provide the information required in each form in accordance with the instructions set out in the RFO. According to the instruction in the Form TECH-3 (Organization of the Offeror), the Offerors should “Provide a brief description of the background and organization of your firm/entity and of each Associate for this assignment. Include the organization chart of your firm/entity as well as the Association and each Associate, as applicable.” In Form TECH-6 (Description of Approach, Methodology and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment), Offerors should provide “and organizational structure (organigram) for the proposed assignment.”
75.	TECH-4	In Form TECH-4. Experience of the Offeror (page 37), the table instructs Offerors to provide “name(s) of proposed senior professional staff of your firm involved and functions performed (indicate most significant profiles such as project director/coordinator, team leader).” • Question 3: Could MCA-Belize please confirm that, for purposes of this field in the table and page limitation, it is sufficient to provide the name and primary function/role titles	Offerors are instructed to provide the information as requested in Form TECH-4.

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		of the most significant senior professional staff involved in the assignment, rather than a narrative description of their functions?	
76.	TECH-4	In Form TECH-4. Experience of the Offeror (page 37), the table instructs Offerors to provide a “narrative description of the project’s mobilization demands and how your firm managed that mobilization’s administrative, logistical and financial requirements.” • Question 4: Can MCA-Belize confirm if “mobilization” in the context of this question refers to a project’s start-up phase?	Yes. For purposes of Form TECH-4, “mobilization” refers to the project’s start-up and deployment phase. Offerors should describe the administrative, logistical, financial, and personnel arrangements required to initiate the assignment and how the firm successfully managed those requirements.
77.	TECH-10 and TECH-6	Would MCA-Belize accept the submission of one (1) work plan under Form TECH-10 that responds to the requirements stated in both Form TECH-6, Description of Approach, Methodology, and Work Plan for Performing the Assignment (page 39-40) and Form TECH-10. Work and Deliverables Schedule (page 44)? Therefore, a workplan under TECH-6 would not be needed.	Offerors should provide the information requested in each form, in accordance with the instructions and requirements specified for that form. TECH- 10 and TECH-6 should each be completed as applicable.

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78.	TECH-12	In Form TECH-12. Compliance With Sanctions Certification Form (page 47), the instructions state, "The form is to be submitted to the Accountable Entity's Procurement Agent at the time of Offer submission, and to the Fiscal Agent thereafter [<i>email addresses for Accountable Entity Procurement and Fiscal Agents to be inserted here</i>] with a copy to MCC at: sanctionscompliance@mcc.gov." • Question 6: Can MCA-Belize please provide the email address to which Form TECH-12 should be submitted?	The form states: "In satisfaction of Clause G of the Additional Provisions at Annex B of the Contract, this form is to be completed by the Offeror upon submission of the Offer and, if selected, within 28 days of receipt of Letter of Acceptance and Contract Agreement, and subsequently thereafter on the last business day prior to the last day of each quarter (March 31, June 30, September 30, December 31) after the signature of an MCC-Funded Contract, for the duration of the Contract." We clarify that the form shall be filled in and included in the offer. Only the selected consultant will be requested to update and submit the form as described for the period after issuance of the Letter of Acceptance and Contract Agreement, including the submission to the Fiscal Agent.
79.	Section V Terms of Reference, 7. Key Personnel	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 7. Key Personnel Exact text: "The proposed team shall include, at a minimum, the following in-country key personnel" followed by a listing of both evaluated positions (Team Leader / TVET Systems and Institutional Reform Specialist; and TVET Governance and Quality Assurance Specialist). RFP reference 2: Section VII. Special Conditions of Contract / GCC 10.5 Exact text: "A resident project manager shall be required for the duration of this Contract." These two provisions together create a potential requirement for three distinct	Please see the Responses to Nos. 29, 30 and 46.

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		in-country personnel. Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) Does "in-country" as used in Section V, 7. Key Personnel mean physically resident in Belize for the full 96-week contract duration, or deployed through scheduled in-country missions with home-office time between missions? (b) Is the Resident Project Manager required under GCC 10.5 a third, separate in-country position distinct from the two evaluated Key Professional Personnel, or may one of the two KPP simultaneously fulfil the Resident Project Manager function? (c) If full-time Belize residency is required for all three roles, must the Resident Project Manager be located in Belize City specifically?	
80.	Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context	RFP reference: Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context Exact text: "The Activity also aligns with the recently approved National TVET Policy (2025) and soon-to-be-enacted National TVET Act, which provides and will provide a comprehensive framework for strengthening governance, improving quality assurance and accreditation systems, strengthening partnerships with industry, expanding access to training opportunities, and improving labour market information systems." This document is not included in the bidding pack. Can MCA-Belize provide the full text of the National TVET Policy (2025) or confirm the URL at which it can be accessed by registered offerors?	Please see the Response No. 50.

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		Alignment with this policy is required across all ten deliverables.	
81.	Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context Exact text: "soon-to-be-enacted National TVET Act" (as above). RFP reference 2: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services (opening paragraph) Exact text: "The Consultant shall support the Government of Belize and MCA-Belize in the design, establishment, and early operationalization of the NTA, but shall not assume statutory, regulatory, or executive functions assigned to the Government of Belize or the NTA under national legislation." Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) whether the National TVET Act has been enacted or remains in draft; (b) whether the text or most recent draft can be provided, specifically provisions governing the NTA's mandate and the boundary between statutory authority and advisory support; and (c) whether contract commencement or specific deliverables will be contingent on enactment, and if so, the expected timeline?	Please see the Responses to Nos. 13, 39 and 50.

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82.	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 4. Implementation Requirements	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 4. Implementation Requirements / Inception Phase Exact text: "Within four (4) weeks of contract signing, the Consultant shall submit an Inception Report outlining: [...] a monitoring plan with relevant indicators from the MCA-Belize M&E Plan." RFP reference 2: Section V. Terms of Reference / 4. Implementation Requirements / Monitoring and Evaluation Exact text: "The Consultant will be responsible for monitoring in accordance with the MCA-Belize Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan), and according to the MCC M&E Policy. The M&E Plan provides for quarterly reporting of project monitoring indicators." Can MCA-Belize share the M&E Plan, or at minimum the key indicators and Indicator Tracking Table, with registered offerors at this stage so that they can be incorporated into the proposed methodology and Inception Report approach?	MCA advises that its M&E plan will be finalized within 180 days of the compact entering into force, expected mid-September 2026. Once the MCA M&E Plan has been finalized, it will be shared with the contractor. Prospective offerors are however asked to note that many of the critical M&E indicators related to this contract are reflected in the deliverables identified in the RFO. These include the establishment and operationalisation of the NTA, the number of Skills Councils established, the establishment of the grant facility for TVET providers, the establishment of the quality assurance/ accreditation frameworks and the approval of a national qualifications framework.
83.	Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 1. Background and Context Exact text: "The Government of Belize is establishing a National Training Authority (NTA) as a statutory national institution responsible for oversight and coordination of the TVET system." RFP reference 2: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services / B. Strengthening Industry Engagement and	Please see the Responses Nos. 14 and 36.

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		Sector Skills Councils Exact text: "Facilitate the establishment and operationalization of three priority SSCs in selected economic sectors based on labour-market demand and national development priorities." Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) the precise stage of NTA establishment formally constituted as a statutory body, in the process of being established, or not yet having legal existence and whether any founding governance documents or board terms of reference can be shared; and (b) whether the three priority SSC sectors have already been identified and, if so, whether the prioritisation analysis can be shared with offerors?	
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84.	RFP reference: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services / D. Data Systems and Monitoring Mechanisms	RFP reference: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services / D. Data Systems and Monitoring Mechanisms Exact text: "Assess and advise on areas of collaboration with or enhancement of data systems linked to the Belize Education Management Information System (BEMIS), an Open EMIS platform, or other relevant platforms to enable improved tracking of training outcomes and labour-market performance." Can MCA-Belize: (a) provide BEMIS system architecture documentation, including TVET-relevant data fields, data flows, and any prior integration assessments; and (b) confirm whether any existing LMI data, graduate tracer studies, or workforce assessments for the Belize TVET sector are available to share with offerors, in order to determine whether the Deliverable 6 approach should be designed as a baseline system or an enhancement of existing data?	(a) Detailed BEMIS system architecture documentation, including TVET-specific data fields, data flows, and prior integration assessments, is not available for distribution during the solicitation process. Relevant documentation and access to appropriate stakeholders will be provided to the selected Consultant during implementation, subject to applicable data-access and security requirements. (b) Available labour-market information, graduate tracer studies, and workforce assessments relevant to Belize's TVET sector will also be shared with the selected Consultant, where available. Offerors should propose an adaptable approach that begins with an assessment of existing systems, data, and studies and that can support either the enhancement of existing mechanisms or the establishment of an appropriate baseline where sufficient data or systems do not currently exist.
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85.	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services	RFP reference 1: Section V. Terms of Reference / 3. Scope of Services (opening paragraph) Exact text: "The Consultant's role shall be advisory, technical, and capacity-building in nature. The Consultant shall support the Government of Belize and MCA-Belize in the design, establishment, and early operationalization of the NTA, but shall not assume statutory, regulatory, or executive functions assigned to the Government of Belize or the NTA under national legislation." RFP reference 2: Section V. Terms of Reference / 5. Deliverables / Deliverable 8: Pilot Implementation Report Exact text (from the Deliverable 8 description): The deliverable describes the Consultant supporting the NTA in conducting initial evaluations of selected training institutions and programmes for accreditation. Can MCA-Belize confirm whether under Deliverable 8 the Consultant is expected to: (a) directly conduct accreditation evaluations of providers on behalf of the NTA; or (b) technically advise and accompany the NTA while the NTA itself conducts those evaluations? This distinction materially affects staffing design and financial pricing.	As indicated in the RFO, the consultant's role is advisory and aimed at supporting the development of the needed operational procedures for the NTA. There is no expectation that the consultant will directly conduct any accreditation evaluations.
86.	RFP reference: Section II. Data Sheet / ITO 1.2	RFP reference: Section II. Data Sheet / ITO 1.2 Exact text: "This procurement is being launched in anticipation of the availability of Compact funds, subject to	MCA expects the Compact to Enter into Force by the end of September 2026 and to have the first Compact disbursement authority following subsequently, but prior to the official award of this contract.

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		MCC concurrence. The solicitation and evaluation stages may proceed; however, negotiations and issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award shall not occur until after the projected first Compact disbursement authority following Entry into Force (EIF)." Can MCA-Belize provide an expected timeline for the first Compact disbursement authority following Entry into Force, so that offerors can plan mobilisation costs and working capital requirements in the financial offer?	
87.	Section V. Terms of Reference / 4. Implementation Requirements	RFP reference: Section V. Terms of Reference / 4. Implementation Requirements / Coordination and Stakeholder Engagement Exact text: "All major outputs and design elements shall be validated through stakeholder consultations prior to finalization." Can MCA-Belize provide indicative guidance on the expected number, scale, and format of validation workshops across the ten deliverables approximate participant numbers and whether in-person or virtual format is expected? This is required for in-country mission planning and financial offer preparation.	The onus is on the consultant to propose the numbers, scale and format/approach proposed to fulfil the requirements of the RFO.
88.	--	The RFP requires pilot implementation under the following provisions: • Section III, Criterion 2.4 (p.12): the work plan is evaluated on "pilot implementation". • Section V, Scope A (p.63): "Design and pilot the NTA's registration and accreditation system."	MCA advises that the onus is on the consultant to propose the numbers, scale and format/approach to work activities proposed in fulfilment of the requirements of the RFO. As it relates to institutional readiness, the offerors are advised to collaborate and communicate closely with

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	• Section V, Scope B (p.64): “Pilot and establish mechanisms for industry participation in curriculum development, programme review and training delivery.” • Section V, Scope C (p.65): “Design and pilot mechanisms and procedures” for competency-based curriculum development, adaptation, revision and quality assurance. • Section V, Deliverable 8 (p.71): the Week 80 Pilot Implementation Report must cover initial SSC operations, work-based learning, support to NTA accreditation evaluations, early results, lessons, readiness and capacity gaps. To enable an achievable work plan, can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) Duration: What duration or minimum timeframe is expected for each pilot: (i) NTA registration and accreditation; (ii) SSC industry participation; and (iii) competency-based curriculum and QA procedures? (b) Sequencing: Is the Week 80 deadline for Deliverable 8 intended to follow completion of all three pilots, or must any pilot activity be completed under earlier deliverables (including Deliverables 2, 3 or 4)? Please clarify the expected sequencing, recognising that frameworks must be designed and validated, and the NTA and SSCs operational, before piloting. (c) Readiness: Will the NTA, SSCs and participating training providers be established and available when piloting is due to begin? What assurance can MCA-Belize provide regarding	key stakeholders to ensure buy-in, sensitisation and preparedness.
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		institutional readiness and stakeholder availability?	
89.	Section II. Data Sheet / ITO 1.2	RFP reference 1: Section II. Data Sheet / ITO 1.2 Exact text: "This procurement is being launched in anticipation of the availability of Compact funds, subject to MCC concurrence. The solicitation and evaluation stages may proceed; however, negotiations and issuance of the Notice of Intent to Award shall not occur until after the projected first Compact disbursement authority following Entry into Force (EIF)." RFP reference 2: Section VII. Special Conditions of Contract / SCC GCC 16.3 Exact text: The Base Period of Performance is stated as "96 weeks from the Contract Effective Date or the Commencement Date for Base Services." Can MCA-Belize confirm the anticipated contract award and signature date, and the expected commencement date for the consultancy services? This information is essential to enable offerors to define an achievable work plan, in particular to confirm which institutional prerequisites (NTA establishment, SSC sector selection, TVET Act enactment) are expected to be in place before commencement, and to plan the piloting activities under Deliverable 8 within a realistic 96-week timeline.	MCA expected to complete the evaluation of proposal and identification of the successful contractor by November 2026. The finalisation of the award and commencement of the contract shall then follow closely.

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90.	Section III. Qualification and Evaluation Criteria / Qualification Table	RFP reference: Section III. Qualification and Evaluation Criteria / Qualification Table / Factor 4.2 General and Specific Experience / Mandatory Criterion Exact text: Mandatory Criterion 1 requires "at least two (2) contracts... that include (i) two (2) of the following activity types" followed by a list of eight qualifying activity types, and specifies that the offeror must have acted as "the prime consultant, lead joint venture member, or lead implementing firm." Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) whether both activity types must appear within each individual qualifying contract, or whether they may be demonstrated cumulatively across the two qualifying contracts combined; and (b) whether experience as a named sub-consultant with direct delivery responsibility for major components of a qualifying contract may satisfy the role requirement, or must the offeror have been the prime, lead JV member, or lead implementing firm for the contract overall? This is a pass/fail gate and we request an unambiguous answer.	(a) Each of the two qualifying contracts must individually include at least two of the listed activity types. The requirement may not be satisfied by combining activity types across the two contracts. (b) The Offeror must have served as the prime consultant, lead Joint Venture member, or lead implementing firm for each qualifying contract. Experience solely as a sub-consultant, even with responsibility for major components, does not satisfy this mandatory role requirement.
91.	Section III. Qualification and Evaluation Criteria	RFP reference: Section III. Qualification and Evaluation Criteria / Technical Evaluation Criteria and Point System / Criterion 4 Local and Regional Experience Exact text: "Experience working in Belize and/or Caribbean small-state education and TVET systems, including understanding of institutional and implementation realities relevant to the assignment." [5 points]	(a) Yes. Relevant Caribbean small-state education reform experience that is not specifically focused on TVET may receive partial credit. The score awarded will reflect the extent to which the experience demonstrates an understanding of institutional and implementation realities relevant to this assignment. Experience encompassing both education and TVET systems will receive stronger consideration.

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		Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) whether Caribbean small-state education reform experience that is not TVET-specific attracts partial credit under this criterion; and (b) whether experience in comparable small island developing states outside the Caribbean would be considered analogous for the purposes of this criterion?	(b) Experience in comparable small island developing states outside the Caribbean may demonstrate broader relevant experience but will not be treated as equivalent to experience in Belize or Caribbean small states under this criterion. Such experience may be considered elsewhere in the technical evaluation where relevant.
92.	Section VII. Special Conditions of Contract / SCC GCC 18	RFP reference 1: Section VII. Special Conditions of Contract / SCC GCC 18 Exact text: "For purposes of GCC Clause 18, the applicable tax treatment shall be governed by Section 2.8 and Annex VI of the Millennium Challenge Compact between the United States of America and the State of Belize." RFP reference 2: Section II. Data Sheet / ITO 12.10 Exact text: "Per diem and in-country travel will be included in the total price in Form FIN-2." RFP reference 3: Section IV B. Financial Offer Forms / Form FIN-2 / footnote 3 Exact text: "Provide fully loaded prices (including any international travel, communication, local transportation, office expenses, shipment of personal effects, direct and indirect costs, all required insurances, overhead, profits and any other expenses required to carry out the assignment successfully)." Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) whether professional services fees paid to the prime consultant are exempt from Belize income tax or withholding tax under the Compact; (b) whether payments to sub-consultants are subject to Belize	(a) and (b) MCA-Belize confirms that the applicable tax treatment shall be governed by Section 2.8 and Annex VI of the Compact. Offerors should prepare Form FIN-2 in accordance with these provisions and the RFP requirements. All prices must be fully loaded and include per diem, in-country travel, international air travel, and all other costs necessary to perform the assignment. No specific per diem rates are prescribed, and these expenses will not be reimbursed separately outside the agreed Contract Price. (c) Belize GST should be excluded from the prices in Form FIN-2. Under Section 2.8 and Annex VI, Schedule A of the Compact, MCA-Belize is not required to bear GST on services purchased in connection with the Program. (d) The RFO does not prescribe MCC-approved or Government of Belize per diem rates. Offerors shall determine and include reasonable per diem and in-country travel costs necessary to perform the assignment. These costs must be

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		withholding tax; (c) whether Belize GST should be included or excluded from Form FIN-2 prices; (d) the MCC-approved or Government of Belize per diem rates applicable to Belize City and other field locations; and (e) whether international air travel must be included as a priced line item in Form FIN-2, as implied by footnote 3, or will be reimbursed separately outside the fixed price?	included in the total fixed price in Form FIN-2 and will not be reimbursed separately. (e) All required international air travel must be included in the fully loaded fixed price presented in Form FIN-2. International travel will not be reimbursed separately outside the Contract Price. Offerors may show travel costs in a supporting breakdown, where appropriate, but such costs must remain included in the total Financial Offer.
93.	Section V. Terms of Reference / 6. Optional Services	RFP reference: Section V. Terms of Reference / 6. Optional Services (heading) Exact text: The TOR identifies nine Optional Services under the heading "6. Optional Services" and states they "are not part of the Base Services" and shall only be authorised through written notification by MCA-Belize. Can MCA-Belize confirm: (a) whether offerors are required to price Optional Services in the Financial Offer at submission stage; and (b) if so, in what format lump sum, per-deliverable, or per-day rate and in which Financial Offer form?	Please refer to Response No. 41.
94.	TECH-1 / GOE Certification Form	RFP reference: Section IV A. Technical Offer Forms / Form TECH-1 / GOE Certification Form (attached to TECH-1) Exact text: "This prohibition does not apply to Government-owned Force Account units, local What category does this project fall under in relation to the MCC Environmental Guidelines? We	Please refer to Response No. 61.

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		are asking as our understanding is that we need to comply with these guidelines. Is that understanding correct? public utility operators, educational institutions and research centers, or any statistical, mapping or other technical entities not formed primarily for a commercial or business purpose, or where a waiver is granted by MCC in accordance with the MCC PPG." Can MCA-Belize confirm how this exemption applies to a company that is a wholly-owned subsidiary of a UK registered charity whose primary statutory purpose is education and qualifications assessment specifically whether such an entity is treated as an educational institution for the purposes of this exemption, or assessed as a commercial entity? We raise this as a formal compliance disclosure item and request written guidance before completing the GOE Certification Form.	
95.	--	Please could you detail who is on selection committee for this opportunity to support us in understanding the prior knowledge possessed by the team to subsequently inform our writing.	Please refer to Response No. 5.
96.	--	Please could you state the distinction between a sub-contractor and sub-consultant.	For the purposes of this RFO process, the terms sub-contractor and sub-consultant are considered interchangeable. Both refer to a third-party entity engaged by the offeror/consultant to perform a portion of the services, deliverables, or scope of work under the terms and conditions for

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			the solicitation, and under the Offeror's overall responsibility.
97.	--	In the definition of "Association or "Joint Venture" or "JV" please could you clarify what is meant by "an association of entities that forms the consultant". Would there be legal agreements between entities for this to be established? What agreement/s do you expect to be in place for joint ventures between entities?	For a Joint Venture, the Offeror will be required to formalize and provide a legally valid agreement that complies with the requirements of the solicitation and is acceptable to MCA-Belize. Such document must clearly establish the joint and several liability of the parties, provide a formal legal basis for the relationship among the entities forming the Joint Venture, and enable the Joint Venture to legally enter into a contractual and commercial relationship with MCA-Belize.
98.	--	What category does this project fall under in relation to the MCC Environmental Guidelines? We are asking as our understanding is that we need to comply with these guidelines. Is that understanding correct?	This procurement falls under the Education Project, which is classified as Category C under the MCC Environmental Guidelines because its activities are unlikely to result in significant adverse environmental or social impacts. Yes, the Consultant must comply with all applicable MCC Environmental Guidelines, IFC Performance Standards, Belizean laws and regulations, and any relevant MCA-Belize environmental and social requirements. Because this is a Category C activity, a separate environmental and social impact assessment is not anticipated; however, the Consultant must identify and appropriately manage any environmental, social, health, safety, labor, or stakeholder-engagement risks arising during implementation.

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99.	--	We have noted 36.1 of the "SECTION VI. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT" What type and value of insurance or protection are you expecting the supplier to take out/have in place already in relation to this contract? Is it that which is detailed in GCC 36.1?	Offerors shall provide for the insurance requirements stated in Special Conditions of Contract, under SCC GCC 36.1 and any insurance required by applicable law.
100.	--	We have noted the following wording in 5.1 of "SECTION VI. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT"- "If the Consultant intends to subcontract for a major item of its contracted Services (deemed major if valued in excess of US\$100,000) it shall seek the Client's prior written approval of the subcontractor. Subcontracting shall not alter the Consultant's obligations under this Contract." Is this written approval required before placing a bid or on contract award?	As this provision is contained in the General Conditions of Contract, it applies to the selected Consultant after contract award and during contract implementation. Accordingly, any required approval for subcontracting a major item of the Services would be sought after contract signature and prior to engaging the proposed subcontractor.

These clarifications are issued for interpretative purposes only and do not constitute an amendment to the RFO document. All terms and conditions remain unchanged.

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