

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Country:	Ukraine
Sector:	District Heating
Project title:	Sweden-Ukraine District Heating Fund - Project Implementation Support Services
Contract type:	Consulting services
Issue date:	15 January 2020
Closing Date:	7 February 2020, at 12:00 local time in Finland

Project Description: The Sweden-Ukraine District Heating Fund (the Programme) is a financing and support programme established by NEFCO and Sweden, through Sida, directed at financing and supporting environmentally sustainable and energy efficient demonstration projects in district heating in Ukraine. The objective of the Programme is to demonstrate the development of sustainable and market oriented district heating based on Nordic experiences adapted to Ukrainian conditions. Another key objective is to demonstrate modern and energy efficient district heating with significant share of production based on renewable and waste heat sources.

It is expected that the Programme efforts will result in the implementation of at least four (4) demonstration projects in different medium-sized Ukrainian cities. The beneficiaries will be Ukrainian District Heating Entities owned by a municipality. Eligible investments under the Programme are those which have the potential to demonstrate modern, sustainable and energy efficient district heating technology and design principles and support the development for interconnection of district heating networks into more efficient units to enable the introduction of renewable and waste heat sources for district heating production. Eligible investments include demand side measures, heat distribution networks and sustainable production sources. Financially the Programme combines investment grants with credits and is supported by grant funding for Technical Assistance.

Technical Assistance is divided into two main tasks as follows:

1. A Coordination Consultant to support NEFCO in the overall coordination, monitoring and follow-up of the Programme, in identifying prospective Project Partners (municipally owned district heating entities in medium-sized cities in Ukraine) and in preparing pre-studies and feasibility studies based on project proposals have been contracted by NEFCO since May 2019. The Coordination Consultant is also responsible for certain communication and dissemination activities of the Programme; enhancing positive cooperation within the scope of the Programme.
2. Project Implementation (PIU) Support Consultant(s) that will, based on a framework call-off agreement, support the Project Partners in project implementation.

Assignment Description: NEFCO now intends to enter framework call-off agreements with at least two experienced and qualified consultancy firms to provide Project Implementation (PIU) Support Services for the Programme (the "Consultant"; pos 2 above). These Terms of Reference describe the objectives, tasks and requirements for the assignment.

In order to meet the objectives of the assignment, the Consultant shall undertake the following tasks/activities:

- Support in capacity building of PIUs;
- Support in project implementation;
- Support in design and preparation of technical specifications / tender documents;
- Procurement support;

- Support in ensuring compliance with Financing Agreements and other agreements;
- Support in contract administration and works supervision;
- Arrangement of timely disbursements under the contracts.

Assignment Start Date and Duration: The framework call-off agreement is expected to start in May 2020. The framework call-off agreement intends to cover project implementation support services for projects in 4-5 medium-sized Ukrainian cities. Project assignments are intended to be called off after financing agreements have been signed between the borrower/beneficiary and NEFCO. Each project agreement will be called off from the framework agreement based on the consultant's availability and specific project expediency with a duration depending on project scope and complexity. Implementation periods expected to be in the range of 24-36 months.

Cost Estimate for the Assignment: The budget for each project will be determined based on the project scope and complexity, in the range from 250 000 EUR to 400 000 EUR. The maximum budget for implementation support services for the entire programme is 1.5 MEUR.

Funding: The consultant's selection and contracting will be subject to availability of grant funds.

Eligibility: There are no eligibility restrictions.

Consultant Profile: The consultant will be a firm or consortium of firms with extensive background in district heating and with prior experiences in project implementation support, procurement and works supervision within the district heating sector under similar assignments in CIS countries, preferably in Ukraine, financed by International Financing Institutions IFIs. It is envisaged that the following expertise will be needed for the purposes of this assignment:

- Project manager/team leader
- District heating technical specialists and engineers
- Financial analysts with experience in cash flow and disbursement management at respective clients in CIS countries, preferably in Ukraine.
- Procurement and contract management specialists.

The consultant is expected to engage staff with a good knowledge of the local design and construction norms and regulations and with its equivalents within the EU. The firm's ability to engage competent local experts will be considered an advantage.

All experts should have at least five (5) years of experience in the District Heating sector, as well as prior experience with implementation support of infrastructure projects funded by IFIs. It is further expected that all proposed experts have excellent written and communication skills in English, fluency in Ukrainian/Russian will be considered advantageous. Where staff does not speak the local language, interpretation and translation will be the responsibility of the consultant.

Submission Requirements: Interested consultants are invited to submit Expression of Interest. In order to determine the capability and experience of Consultants seeking to be selected for this framework call-off agreement, the information submitted should include the following:

1. Company/group of firms' profile, organisation and staffing, including the presentation of the proposed expert team for the assignment.
2. Details of previous project experience or similar assignments particularly undertaken in the previous five years, including information on contract value, contracting entity/client, project location/country, duration (months and years), expert months provided (if different from duration), main activities, objectives.
3. CVs of key experts who could carry out the Assignment detailing education, language skills, qualifications, experience in similar assignments, particularly assignments undertaken in the previous five years, including information on contracting entity/client, project location/country, duration (months and years, from - to), expert months provided, assignment budget, main activities, accomplishments.

The above information should not exceed 10 pages excluding CVs. Each CV should not exceed three (3) pages.

The complete expression of interest (including CVs) should be submitted in English electronically through email (procurement@nefco.fi with copy to ronny.nilsson@nefco.fi), to reach the NEFCO not later than the closing time. The expression of interest shall be one file (pdf) not exceeding 5MB in size. NEFCO reserves the right to reject applications of firms submitting more than one file.

NEFCO Contact Person:

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The short list of qualified and experienced firms will be made from responses to this notification. The short-listed Consultants will be requested to submit technical and financial proposals, from which the at least the two highest-ranked Consultants will be selected.