

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

(Note: These Instructions to Bidders along with bidding data will not be part of the Contract and will cease to have effect once the contract is signed.)

A. GENERAL

IB.1 Scope of Bid

- 1.1 Procuring agency as defined in the bidding data hereinafter called “the procuring agency” wishes to receive bids for the construction and completion of works as described in these bidding documents, and summarized in the bidding data hereinafter referred to as the “Works”.
- 1.2 The successful bidder will be expected to complete the works within the time specified in Appendix-A to Bid.

IB.2 Source of Funds

- 2.1 Procuring agency has received Provincial Government funds from the source(s) indicated in the bidding data in various currencies towards the cost of the project /scheme specified in the bidding data, and it is intended that part of the proceeds of these funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for which these bidding documents are issued.

IB.3 Eligible Bidders

- 3.1 This Invitation for Bids is open to all interested bidders who are eligible under provisions of Sindh Public Procurement Rules as mentioned below and the criteria given in the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)/ Bidding Document.

Firms and individuals, national or international, may be allowed to bid for any project where international competitive bidding is feasible. Any conditions for participation shall be limited to those that are essential to ensure the bidder’s capability to fulfill the contract in question.

- (a) Bidders may be excluded if;
 - (i) as a matter of law or official regulations, commercial relations are prohibited with the bidder’s country by the federal government in case of ICB, or
 - (ii) a firm is blacklisted/ debarred by the procuring agency and the matter has been reported to the Authority, subject to Rule 30 of Sindh Public Procurement Rules 2010.
- (b) Government-owned enterprises or institutions may participate only if they can

establish that they are;

- (i) legally and financially autonomous, and
- (ii) operate under commercial law.

Provided that where government-owned universities or research centers in the country are of a unique and exceptional nature, and their participation is critical to project implementation, they may be allowed to participate; and

Bidders shall include all those contractors who are registered or incorporated in Pakistan, irrespective of the nationality of their owners and professional staff, or

(c) Bidders are:-

- (i) pre-qualified with procuring agency for particular project/scheme;
- (ii) registered with Pakistan Engineering Council in particular category and discipline,
- (iii) registered with relevant tax authorities (income/sales tax, wherever applicable)

IB.4 One Bid per Bidder

- 4.1 Each bidder shall submit only one bid either by himself, or as a partner in a joint venture. A bidder who submits or participates in more than one bid (other than alternatives pursuant to Clause IB.16) will be disqualified.

IB.5 Cost of Bidding

- 5.1 The bidders shall bear all costs associated with the preparation and submission of their respective bids, and the procuring agency will in no case be responsible or liable for those costs, regardless of the conduct or outcome of the bidding process.

IB.6 Site Visit

- 6.1 The bidders are advised to visit and examine the site of works and its surroundings and obtain all information that may be necessary for preparing the bid and entering into a contract for construction of the works. All cost in this respect shall be at the bidder's own expense.
- 6.2 The bidders and any of their personnel or agents will be granted permission by the procuring agency to enter upon his premises and lands for the purpose of such inspection, but only upon the express condition that the bidders, their personnel and agents, will release and indemnify the procuring agency, his personnel and agents from and against all liability in respect thereof and will be responsible for death or personal injury, loss of or damage to property and any other loss, damage, costs and expenses incurred as a result of such inspection.

B. BIDDING DOCUMENTS

IB.7 Contents of Bidding Documents (SSP RULE 21)

7.1 The bidding documents, in addition to invitation for bids, are those stated below and should be read in conjunction with any addenda issued in accordance with Clause IB.9.

- a. Instructions to Bidders.
- b. Bidding Data.
- c. General Conditions of Contract, Part-I (GCC).
- d. Special Conditions of Contract, Part-II (SCC)
- e. Specifications.
- f. Form of Bid and Appendices to Bid.
- g. Bill of Quantities (Appendix-D to Bid).
- h. Form of Bid Security.
- i. Form of Contract Agreement.
- j. Forms of Performance Security, Mobilization Advance Guarantee, Integrity Pact and Indenture bond for secured advance.
- k. Drawings.

7.2 The bidders are expected to examine carefully the contents of all the above documents. Failure to comply with the requirements of bid submission will be at the bidder's own risk. Pursuant to Clause IB.26, bids which are not substantially responsive to the requirements of the BD will be rejected.

IB.8 Clarification of Bidding Documents (SSP RULE 23(1):

Any interested bidder requiring any clarification(s) in respect of the bidding documents may notify the procuring agency in writing at the procuring agency's address indicated in the Invitation for Bids/NIT. Procuring agency will respond to any request for clarification provided they are received at least five calendar days prior to the date of opening of bid.

Provided that any clarification in response to query by any bidder; shall be communicated to all parties who have obtained bidding documents.

IB.9 Addendum/Modification of Bidding Documents:

9.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of bids, the procuring agency may, for any reason, whether at his own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a interested bidder, modify the bidding documents by issuing addendum.

9.2 Any addendum thus issued shall be part of the bidding documents pursuant to sub-clause IB 7.1 hereof and shall be communicated in writing to all bidders. Interested bidders shall acknowledge receipt of each addendum in writing to the procuring agency.

- 9.3 To afford bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their bids, the procuring agency may extend the deadline for submission of bids in accordance with IB.20

C. PREPARATION OF BIDS

IB.10 Language of Bid

- 10.1 The bid and all correspondence and documents related to the bid exchanged by a bidder and the procuring agency shall be in the language stipulated in the bidding data and Special Conditions of the Contract. Supporting documents and printed literature furnished by the bidders may be in any other language provided the same are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant parts in the bid language, in which case, for purposes of evaluation of the bid, the translation in bid language shall prevail.

IB.11 Documents Accompanying the Bid

- 11.1 Each bidder shall:

- (a) submit a written authorization on the letterhead of the bidding firm, authorizing the signatory of the bid to act for and on behalf of the bidder;
- (b) update the information indicated and listed in the bidding data and previously submitted with the application for prequalification, and continue to meet the minimum criteria set out in the prequalification documents, which as a minimum, would include the following :
 - (i) Evidence of access to financial resources along with average annual construction turnover;
 - (ii) Financial predictions for the current year and the following two years, including the effect of known commitments;
 - (iii) Work commitments since prequalification;
 - (iv) Current litigation information; and
 - (v) Availability of critical equipment.

And

- (c) furnish a technical proposal taking into account the various Appendices to Bid specially the following:

Appendix-E to Bid	Proposed Construction Schedule
Appendix-F to Bid	Method of Performing the Work
Appendix-G to Bid	List of Major Equipment
Appendix-K to Bid	Organization Chart for Supervisory Staff and other pertinent information such as mobilization programme etc;

11.2 Bids submitted by a joint venture of two (2) or more firms shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) one of the joint venture partners shall be nominated as being in charge; and this authorization shall be evidenced by submitting a power of attorney signed by legally authorized signatories of all the joint venture partners;
- (b) the bid, and in case of a successful bid, the Form of Contract Agreement shall be signed by the authorized partner so as to be legally binding on all partners;
- (c) the partner-in-charge shall always be duly authorized to deal with the procuring agency regarding all matters related with and/or incidental to the execution of works as per the terms and Conditions of Contract and in this regard to incur any and all liabilities, receive instructions, give binding undertakings and receive payments on behalf of the joint venture;
- (d) all partners of the joint venture shall at all times and under all circumstances be liable jointly and severally for the execution of the contract in accordance with the contract terms and a statement to this effect shall be included in the authorization mentioned under Sub-Para (a) above as well as in the Form of Bid and in the Form of Contract Agreement (in case of a successful bid);
- (e) a copy of the agreement entered into by the joint venture partners shall be submitted with the bid stating the conditions under which it will function, its period of duration, the persons authorized to represent and obligate it and which persons will be directly responsible for due performance of the contract and can give valid receipts on behalf of the joint venture, the proportionate participation of the several firms forming the joint venture, and any other information necessary to permit a full appraisal of its functioning. No amendments / modifications whatsoever in the joint venture agreement shall be agreed to between the joint venture partners without prior written consent of the procuring agency;
- (f) submission of an alternative Letter of Intent to execute a Joint Venture Agreement shall be mandatory.

11.3 Bidders shall also submit proposals of work methods and schedule, in sufficient detail to demonstrate the adequacy of the bidders' proposals to meet the technical specifications and the completion time referred to sub- clause IB 1.2 hereof.

IB.12 Bid Prices

12.1 Unless stated otherwise in the bidding documents, the contract shall be for the whole of the works as described in IB 1.1 hereof, based on the unit rates or prices submitted by the bidder or percentage quoted above or below on the rates of Composite Schedule of Rates (CSR), as the case may be.

12.2 The bidders shall fill in rates and prices for all items of the works described in the Bill of Quantities. Items against which no rate or price is entered by a bidder will not be paid for by the procuring agency when executed and shall be deemed to be covered by rates and prices for other items in the Bill of Quantities. In case of Composite Schedule of Rates, if the bidder fails to mention the percentage above or below, it shall be deemed to be at par with the rates of Composite Schedule of Rates.

12.3 The bid price submitted by the contractor shall include all rates and prices including the taxes. All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the contractor under the contract, or for any other cause during the currency of the execution of the work or otherwise specified in the contract as on the date seven days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

Additional / reduced duties, taxes and levies due to subsequent additions or changes in legislation shall be reimbursed / deducted as per Sub-Clause 13.7 of the General Conditions of Contract Part-I.

12.4 The rates and prices quoted by the bidders are subject to adjustment during the performance of the contract in accordance with the provisions of Clause 13.7 of GCC. The bidders shall furnish the prescribed information for the price adjustment formulae in Appendix-C to Bid, and shall submit with their bids such other supporting information as required under the said Clause

IB.13 Currencies of Bid and Payment

13.1 The unit rates and the prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Pak rupees. A bidder expecting to incur expenditures in other currencies for inputs to the works supplied from outside the procuring agency's country (referred to as the "Foreign Currency Requirements") shall indicate the same in Appendix-B to Bid. The proportion of the bid price (excluding Provisional Sums) needed by him for the payment of such Foreign Currency Requirements either (i) entirely in the currency of the bidder's home country or, (ii) at the bidder's option, entirely in Pak rupees provided always that a bidder expecting to incur expenditures in a currency or currencies other than those stated in (i) and (ii) above for a portion of the foreign currency requirements, and wishing to be paid accordingly, shall indicate the respective portions in the bid.

13.2 The rates of exchange to be used by the bidder for currency conversion shall be the selling rates published and authorized by the State Bank of Pakistan prevailing on the date, 07 (seven) days prior to the deadline for submission of bids. For the purpose of payments, the exchange rates used in bid preparation shall apply for the duration of the contract.

IB.14 Bid Validity

14.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period stipulated in the bidding data from the date of opening of bid specified in clause IB.23.

- 14.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to expiry of the original, the procuring agency may request the bidders to extend the period of validity for a specified additional period, which shall not be for more than one third of the original period of bid validity. The request and the responses thereto, shall be made in writing. A bidder may refuse the request without the forfeiture of the bid security. In case, a bidder agreed to the request, shall not be required or permitted to modify the bid, but will be required to extend the validity of the bid security for the period of the extension, and in compliance with Clause IB.15 in all respects.

IB.15 Bid Security

- 15.1 Each bidder shall furnish, as part of the bid, a bid security in the amount stipulated in the bidding data in Pak Rupees or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
- 15.2 The bid security shall be at the option of the bidder, in the form of deposit at call, Pay order or a bank guarantee issued by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan or from a foreign bank duly counter guaranteed by a Scheduled Bank in Pakistan in favour of the procuring agency, which should commensurate with the bid validity period. The bank guarantee for bid security shall be acceptable in the manner as provided at Annexure BS-1
- 15.3 Any bid not accompanied by an acceptable bid security shall be rejected by the procuring agency as non-responsive.
- 15.4 Bid security shall be released to the unsuccessful bidders once the contract has been signed with the successful bidder or the validity period has expired.
- 15.5 The bid security of the successful bidder shall be returned when the bidder has furnished the required Performance Security and signed the Contract Agreement.
- 15.6 The bid security may be forfeited:
- (a) if the bidder withdraws his bid except as provided in sub- clause IB 22.1;
 - (b) if the bidder does not accept the correction of his bid price pursuant to sub-clause IB 27.2 hereof; or
 - (c) In the case of successful bidder, if he fails within the specified time limit to:
 - (i) furnish the required Performance Security; or
 - (ii) sign the Contract Agreement.

IB.16 Alternate Proposals/Bids

- 16.1 Each bidder shall submit only one bid either by himself, or as a member of a joint venture, until and unless they have been requested or permitted for alternative bid, then he has to purchase separate bidding documents and alternate bid shall be treated as separate bid.

- 16.2 Alternate proposals are allowed only for procurement of works where technical complexity is involved and more than one designs or technical solutions are being offered. Two stage two envelope bidding procedure will be appropriate when alternate proposal is required.
- 16.3 Alternate bid(s) shall contain (a) relevant design calculations; (b) technical specifications; (c) proposed construction methodology; and (d) any other relevant details / conditions, provided that the total sum entered on the Form of Bid shall be that which represents complete compliance with the bidding documents.

IB.17 Pre-Bid Meeting

- 17.1 Procuring agency may, on his own motion or at the request of any bidder, hold a pre-bid meeting to clarify issues and to answer any questions on matters related to the bidding documents. The date, time and venue of pre-bid meeting, if convened, shall be communicated to all bidders. All bidders or their authorized representatives shall be invited to attend such a pre-bid meeting at their own expense.
- 17.2 The bidders are requested to submit questions, if any, in writing so as to reach the Procuring agency not later than seven (7) days before the proposed pre-bid meeting.
- 17.3 Minutes of the pre-bid meeting, including the text of the questions raised and the replies given, will be transmitted without delay to all bidders. Any modification of the bidding documents listed in sub- clause IB 7.1 hereof, which may become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting shall be made by the procuring agency exclusively through the issue of an Addendum pursuant to Clause IB.9 and not through the minutes of the pre-bid meeting.
- 17.4 Absence at the pre-bid meeting will not be a cause for disqualification of a bidder.

IB.18 Format and Signing of Bid

- 18.1 Bidders are particularly directed that the amount entered on the Form of Bid shall be for performing the contract strictly in accordance with the bidding documents.
- 18.2 All appendices to bid are to be properly completed and signed.
- 18.3 Alteration is not to be made neither in the form of bid nor in the Appendices thereto except in filling up the blanks as directed. If any such alterations be made or if these instructions be not fully complied with, the bid may be rejected.
- 18.4 Each bidder shall prepare by filling out the forms without alterations and shall provide an original copy along with photocopies as per the requirement of the procuring agency specified in the bidding data. The original as well as copies of the document shall be clearly marked as "ORIGINAL" and "COPY", as the case may be. If there is any discrepancy between original and copy (ies) then the original shall prevail.

- 18.5 The original and all copies of the bid shall be typed or written in indelible ink (in the case of copies, Photostats are also acceptable) and shall be signed by a person(s) duly authorized to sign on behalf of the bidder pursuant to sub- clause IB 11.1(a) hereof. All pages of the bid shall be initialed and stamped by the person(s) signing the bid.
- 18.6 The bid shall contain no alterations, omissions or additions, except to comply with instructions issued by the procuring agency, or as are necessary to correct errors made by the bidder. Such corrections shall be initialed by the person(s) signing the bid.
- 18.7 Bidders shall indicate in the space provided in the Form of Bid their full and proper postal addresses at which notices may be legally served on them and to which all correspondence in connection with their bids and the contract is to be sent.
- 18.8 Bidders should retain a copy of the bidding documents as their file copy.

D. SUBMISSION OF BIDS

IB.19 Sealing and Marking of Bids

- 19.1 Each bidder shall submit his bid as under:
- (a) ORIGINAL and TWO COPIES of the bid shall be separately sealed and put in separate envelopes and marked as such.
 - (b) The envelopes containing the ORIGINAL and COPIES shall be put in one sealed envelope and addressed as given in sub – clause IB 19.2 hereof.
- 19.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall:
- (a) be addressed to the procuring agency at the address provided in the bidding data;
 - (b) bear the name and identification number of the contract as defined in the bidding data; and
 - (c) provide a warning not to open before the time and date for bid opening, as specified in the bidding data.
- 19.3 In addition to the identification required in sub- clause IB 19.2 hereof, the inner envelope shall indicate the name and postal address of the bidder to enable the bid to be returned unopened in case it is declared “late” pursuant to Clause IB.21
- 19.4 If the outer envelope is not sealed and marked as above, the procuring agency will assume no responsibility for the misplacement or premature opening of the Bid.

IB.20 Deadline for Submission of Bids

- 20.1 (a) Bids must be received by the procuring agency at the address specified not later than the time and date stipulated in the bidding data,

- (b) Bids with charges payable will not be accepted, nor will arrangements be undertaken to collect the bids from any delivery point other than that specified above. Bidders shall bear all expenses incurred in the preparation and delivery of bids. No claims shall be entertained for refund of such expenses,
- (c) Where delivery of a bid is by mail and the bidder wishes to receive an acknowledgment of receipt of such bid, he shall make a request for such acknowledgment in a separate letter attached to but not included in the sealed bid package,
- (d) Upon request, acknowledgment of receipt of bids will be provided to those making delivery in person or by messenger.

20.2 The Procuring Agency may, at its discretion, extend the deadline for submission of bids by issuing an amendment in accordance with IB 09. In such case, all rights and obligations of the procuring agency and the bidders shall remain the same as mentioned in the original deadline.

IB.21 Late Bids

- (a) any bid received by the procuring agency after the deadline for submission of bids prescribed in to clause IB 20 shall be returned unopened to such bidder.
- (b) delays in the mail, person in transit, or delivery of a bid to the wrong office shall not be accepted as an excuse for failure to deliver a bid at the proper place and time. It shall be the bidder's responsibility to submit the bid in time.

IB.22 Modification, Substitution and Withdrawal of Bids

- 22.1 Any bidder may modify, substitute or withdraw his bid after bid submission provided that the modification, substitution or written notice of withdrawal is received by the procuring agency prior to the deadline for submission of bids.
- 22.2 The modification, substitution, or notice for withdrawal of any bid shall be prepared, sealed, marked and delivered in accordance with the provisions of Clause IB.19 with the outer and inner envelopes additionally marked "MODIFICATION", "SUBSTITUTION" or "WITHDRAWAL" as appropriate.
- 22.3 No bid may be modified by a bidder after the deadline for submission of bids except in accordance with to sub - clauses IB 22.1 and IB 27.2.
- 22.4 Withdrawal of a bid during the interval between the deadlines for submission of bids and the expiration of the period of bid validity specified in the Form of Bid may result in forfeiture of the bid security in pursuance to clause IB 15.

E. BID OPENING AND EVALUATION.

IB.23 Bid Opening

- 23.1 Procuring agency will open the bids, including withdrawals, substitution and modifications made pursuant to Clause IB.22, in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend, at the time, date and location stipulated in the bidding data. The bidders or their representatives who are in attendance shall sign an attendance sheet.
- 23.2 Envelopes marked "MODIFICATION", "SUBSTITUTION" or "WITHDRAWAL" shall be opened and read out first. Bids for which an acceptable notice of withdrawal has been submitted pursuant to clause IB.22 shall not be opened.
- 23.3 Procuring agency shall read aloud the name of the bidder, total bid price and price of any Alternate Proposal(s), if any, discounts, bid modifications, substitution and withdrawals, the presence or absence of bid security, and such other details as the procuring agency may consider appropriate, and total amount of each bid, and of any alternative bids if they have been requested or permitted, shall be read aloud and recorded when opened.
- 23.4 Procuring Agency shall prepare minutes of the bid opening, including the information disclosed to those present in accordance with the sub-clause IB.23.3.

IB.24 Process to be Confidential. (SPP Rule 53)

- 24.1 Information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of bid and recommendations for the award of a contract shall not be disclosed to bidders or any other person not officially concerned with such process before the announcement of bid evaluation report in accordance with the requirements of Rule 45, which states that Procuring agencies shall announce the results of bid evaluation in the form of a report giving reasons for acceptance or rejection of bids. The report shall be hoisted on website of authority and that of procuring agency if it website exists and intimated to all bidders at least seven (7) days prior to the award of contract. The announcement to all bidders will include table(s) comprising read out prices, discounted prices, price adjustments made, final evaluated prices and recommendations against all the bids evaluated. Any effort by a bidder to influence the procuring agency's processing of bids or award decisions may result in the rejection of such bidder's bid. Whereas, any bidder feeling aggrieved, may lodge a written complaint as per Rule 31; however mere fact of lodging a complaint shall not warrant suspension of the procurement process.

IB.25 Clarification of Bid (SPP Rule 43)

- 25.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of bids, the procuring agency may, at its discretion, ask any bidder for clarification of the bid, including breakdowns of unit rates. The request for clarification and the response shall be in writing but no change in the price or substance of the bid shall be sought, offered or permitted except as required to confirm the correction of arithmetic errors discovered by the procuring

agency in the evaluation of the bids in accordance with clause IB 28.

IB.26 Examination of Bids and Determination of Responsiveness

- 26.1 Prior to the detailed evaluation of bids, the procuring agency will determine whether the bidder fulfills all codal requirements of eligibility criteria given in the tender notice such as registration with tax authorities, registration with PEC (where applicable), turnover statement, experience statement, and any other condition mentioned in the NIT and bidding document. If the bidder does not fulfill any of these conditions, it shall not be evaluated further.
- 26.2 Once found to be fulfilling the eligibility criteria, as mentioned in sub- clause 26.1, the bids of eligible bidders will be evaluated for technical responsiveness as per specification and criteria given in the bidding documents. Technical and financial evaluations may be carried out in accordance with single stage-single one envelope, single stage-two envelopes, two stage or two stage-two envelopes bidding procedures, depending on the selection procedure adopted by the procuring agency.
- 26.3 A bid will be considered technically responsive if it (i) has been properly signed; (ii) is accompanied by the required bid security; and (iii) conforms to all the terms, conditions and specifications of the bidding documents, without material deviation or reservation. A material deviation or reservation is one (i) which affect in any substantial way the scope, quality or performance of the works; (ii) which limits in any substantial way, inconsistent with the bidding documents, the procuring agency's rights or the bidder's obligations under the contract; or (iii) adoption/rectification whereof would affect unfairly the competitive position of other bidders presenting substantially responsive bids.
- 26.4 If a bid has major deviations to the commercial requirements and technical specifications will be considered technically non responsive. As a general rule, major deviations are those that if accepted, would not fulfill the purposes for which the bid is requested, or would prevent a fair comparison or affect the ranking of the bids that are compliant with the bidding documents.

(A). Major (material) Deviations include:-

- (i) has been not properly signed;
- (ii) is not accompanied by the bid security of required amount and manner;
- (iii) stipulating price adjustment when fixed price bids were called for;
- (iv) failing to respond to specifications;
- (v) failing to comply with Mile-stones/Critical dates provided in Bidding Documents;
- (vi) sub-contracting contrary to the Conditions of Contract specified in Bidding Documents;
- (vii) refusing to bear important responsibilities and liabilities allocated in the Bidding Documents, such as performance guarantees and insurance coverage;
- (viii) taking exception to critical provisions such as applicable law, taxes and duties and dispute resolution procedures;
- (ix) a material deviation or reservation is one :

- (a) which affect in any substantial way the scope, quality or performance of the works;
- (b) adoption/rectification whereof would affect unfairly the competitive position of other bidders presenting substantially responsive bids.

(B) Minor Deviations

Bids that offer deviations acceptable to the Procuring Agency and which can be assigned a monetary value may be considered substantially responsive at least as to the issue of fairness. This value would however be added as an adjustment for evaluation purposes only during the detailed evaluation process.

- 26.5 If a bid is not substantially responsive, it will be rejected by the procuring agency, and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction or withdrawal of the non-conforming deviation or reservation.

IB.27 Correction of Errors before Financial Evaluation

- 27.1 Bids determined to be substantially responsive will be checked by the procuring agency for any arithmetic errors. Errors will be corrected by the procuring agency as follows:

- (a) where there is a discrepancy between the amounts in figures and in words, the amount in words will govern; and
- (b) where there is a discrepancy between the unit rate and the line item total resulting from multiplying the unit rate by the quantity, the unit rate as quoted will govern, unless in the opinion of the procuring agency there is an obviously gross misplacement of the decimal point in the unit rate, in which case the line item total as quoted will govern and the unit rate will be corrected.

- 27.2 The amount stated in the Form of Bid will be adjusted by the procuring agency in accordance with the above procedure for the correction of errors and with the concurrence of the bidders. The amount thus corrected shall be considered as binding upon the bidder. If the bidder does not accept the corrected bid price, his bid will be rejected, and the bid security shall be forfeited in accordance with sub- clause IB 15.6(b) hereof.

IB.28 Financial Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

- 28.1 The procuring agency will evaluate and compare only the Bids determined to be substantially responsive in accordance with clause IB 26.
- 28.2 In evaluating the Bids, the procuring agency will determine for each bid the evaluated bid price by adjusting the bid price as follows:

- (a) making any correction for errors pursuant to clause IB 27;
 - (b) excluding provisional sums (if any), for contingencies in the Summary Bill of Quantities, but including competitively priced Day work; and
 - (c) making an appropriate adjustment for any other acceptable variation or deviation.
- 28.3 The estimated effect of the price adjustment provisions of the conditions of contract, applied over the period of execution of the contract, shall not be taken into account in bid evaluation.
- 28.4 If the bid of the successful bidder is seriously unbalanced in relation to the procuring agency's estimate of the cost of work to be performed under the contract, the procuring agency may require the bidder to produce detailed price analyses for any or all items of the Bill of Quantities to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the construction methods and schedule proposed. After evaluation of the price analyses, the procuring agency may require that the amount of the Performance Security set forth in clause IB.32 be increased at the expense of the successful bidder to a level sufficient to protect the procuring agency against financial loss in the event of default of the successful bidder under the contract.
- 28.5 Bidders may be excluded if involved in "Corrupt and Fraudulent Practices" means either one or any combination of the practices given below SPP Rule2(q);
- (i) **"Coercive Practice"** means any impairing or harming, or threatening to impair or harm, directly or indirectly, any party or the property of the party to influence the actions of a party to achieve a wrongful gain or to cause a wrongful loss to another party;
 - (ii) **"Collusive Practice"** means any arrangement between two or more parties to the procurement process or contract execution, designed to achieve with or without the knowledge of the procuring agency to establish prices at artificial, noncompetitive levels for any wrongful gain;
 - (iii) **"Corrupt Practice"** means the offering, giving, receiving or soliciting, directly or indirectly, of anything of value to influence the acts of another party for wrongful gain;
 - (iv) **"Fraudulent Practice"** means any act or omission, including a misrepresentation, that knowingly or recklessly misleads, or attempts to mislead, a party to obtain a financial or other benefit or to avoid an obligation;
 - (v) **"Obstructive Practice"** means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons or their property to influence their participation in a procurement process, or affect the execution of a contract or deliberately destroying, falsifying, altering or concealing of evidence material to the investigation or making false statements before investigators in order to materially impede an investigation into allegations of a corrupt, fraudulent,

coercive or collusive practice; or threatening, harassing or intimidating any party to prevent it from disclosing its knowledge of matters relevant to the investigation or from pursuing the investigation, or acts intended to materially impede the exercise of inspection and audit rights provided for under the Rules.

28.6 Evaluation Report (SPP Rule 45)

After the completion of evaluation process, as described in clauses IB 27 and IB 28, the procuring agency shall announce the results of bid evaluation in the form of report (available on the website of the authority) giving reasons for acceptance and rejection of bid. The report shall be hoisted on website of the authority and that of procuring agencies if its website exists and intimated to all bidders at least seven (7) days prior to the award of contract.

F. AWARD OF CONTRACT

IB.29 Award (SPP Rule 49)

29.1.1 Subject to clauses IB 30 and IB 34 and provision of the rule: The procuring agency shall award the contract to the bidder whose bid has been determined to be substantially responsive to the bidding documents, and who has offered the lowest evaluated bid, but not necessarily the lowest submitted price, within the original or extended period of bid validity. Provided that such bidder has been determined to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of clause IB 03 and qualify pursuant to sub-clause IB 29.2.

29.2 Procuring agency, at any stage of the bid evaluation, having credible reasons for or having prima facie evidence of any deficiency(ies) in contractor's capacities, may require the contractor to provide information concerning their professional, technical, financial, legal or managerial competence whether already pre-qualified or not for the said project.

Provided, that such qualification shall only be laid down after recording reasons thereof, in writing. They shall form part of the records of that bid evaluation report.

IB.30 Procuring Agency's Right to reject all Bids or Annul/Cancellation the Bidding Process (SPP Rule 25)

Notwithstanding clause IB 29 and provision of the rule: (1) A procuring agency reserves may cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal; (2) The procuring agency shall incur no liability towards bidders solely by virtue of its invoking sub –rule (1); (3) Intimation of the cancellation of bidding process shall be given promptly to all bidders and bid security shall be returned along with such intimation; (4) The procuring agency shall, upon request by any of the bidders, communicate to such bidder, grounds for cancellation of the bidding process, but is not required to justify such grounds.

IB.31. Notification/Publication of the Award of Contract (SPP Rule 25).

- 31.1 Prior to expiry of the period of bid validity, including extension, prescribed by the procuring agency, the procuring agency shall notify the successful bidder in writing ("Letter of Acceptance") that his bid has been accepted. This letter shall mention the sum which the procuring agency will pay to the contractor in consideration of the execution and completion of the works by the contractor as prescribed by the contract (hereinafter and in the conditions of contract called the "Contract Price").
- 31.2 No negotiation with the bidder having evaluated as lowest responsive or any other bidder shall be permitted, however, procuring agency may hold meetings to clarify any item in the bid evaluation report.
- 31.3 The notification of award and its acceptance by the bidder will constitute the formation of the contract, binding the procuring agency and the bidder till signing of the formal Contract Agreement.
- 31.4 Upon furnishing by the successful bidder of a Performance Security and signing of the contract, the procuring agency will promptly notify the name of the successful bidder to all bidders and return their bid securities accordingly.
- 31.5 Within seven days of the award of contract, procuring agency shall publish on the website of the Authority and on its own website, if such a website exists, the results of the bidding process, identify the bid through procurement identifying numbers, and the following information:
- (1) Evaluation Report;
 - (2) Form of Contract and letter of Award;
 - (3) Bill of Quantities or Schedule of Requirement.

31.6 Debriefing (SPP Rule 51).

- (a) A bidder may ask the procuring agency for reasons for non acceptance of his bid and may request for a debriefing meeting and procuring agency shall give him the reasons for such non acceptance, either in writing or by holding a debriefing meeting with such a bidder.
- (b) The requesting bidder shall bear all the costs of attending such a debriefing.

IB.32 Performance Security (SPP Rule 39)

- 32.1 The successful bidder shall furnish to the procuring agency a Performance Security in the form of pay order or demand draft or bank guarantee, and the amount stipulated in the bidding data and the Conditions of Contract within a period of 28 days after the receipt of Letter of Acceptance.
- 32.2 Failure of the successful bidder to comply with the requirements of Sub-clause IB.32.1 or clauses IB 33 or IB 35 shall constitute sufficient grounds for the annulment

- of the award and forfeiture of the bid security.
- 32.3 Validity of performance security shall extend at least ninety days beyond the date of completion of contract, or as mentioned in the bidding data to cover defects liability period or maintenance period subject to final acceptance by the procuring agency.

IB.33 Signing of Contract Agreement (SPP Rule 39)

- 33.1 Within 14 days from the date of furnishing of acceptable Performance Security under the Conditions of Contract, the procuring agency will send the successful bidder the Contract Agreement in the form provided in the bidding documents, incorporating all agreements between the parties.
- 33.2 The formal Agreement between the procuring agency and the successful bidder shall be executed within 14 days of the receipt of the Contract Agreement by the successful bidder from the procuring agency.
- 33.3 A procurement contract shall come into force when the procuring agency requires signs contract, the date on which the signatures of both the procuring agency and the successful bidder are affixed to the written contract. Such affixing of signatures shall take place within the time prescribed in the bidding documents.

Provided that the procuring agency may reduce the maximum time limit for signing of contract, as and when required, and shall be mentioned in the bidding documents.

33.4 Stamp Duty.

The formal Agreement between the Procuring Agency and the successful bidder shall be duly stamped at rate of 0.35 % of the Contract Price stated in Letter of Acceptance

IB.34 General Performance of the Bidders

Procuring agency may in case of consistent poor performance of the contractor and his failure to remedy the underperforming contract may take such action as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances of the case including the rescinding the contract and/or black listing of such contractor and debarring him from participation in future bidding process.

IB.35 Integrity Pact (SPP Rule 89)

The bidder shall sign and stamp the Integrity Pact provided at Appendix-L to the bidding documents for all Provincial/Local Government procurement contracts exceeding Rupees ten million. Failure to provide such Integrity Pact shall make the bidder non-responsive.

IB.36 Instructions not Part of Contract

Bids shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with these Instructions which are

provided to assist bidders in preparing their bids, and do not constitute part of the bid or the Contract Documents.

IB.37 Arbitration (SPP Rule 34)

Any dispute that is not amicably resolved shall be finally settled, unless otherwise specified in the Contract, under the Arbitration Act 1940 updated from time to time and would be held anywhere in the Province of Sindh at the discretion of procuring agency.