

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 The Employer as defined in the Bidding Data hereinafter called “the Employer” 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 The Employer has applied for/received a loan/credit from the source (s) indicated in the Bidding Data in various currencies towards the cost of the project specified in the Bidding Data and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan/credit will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for which these Bidding Documents are issued.

IB.3 Eligible Bidders

- 3.1 This invitation to Bid is open to only those Bidders who are pre-qualified for this purpose after evaluation of Technical / Prequalification Document.
- 3.2 To be eligible for award of contract, Bidder shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Employer of their capability and adequacy of resources to carry out the contract effectively. Therefore, all Bids submitted must include the following information / basic requirements for this project: -
 - a) Copies of original documents defining the constitution and legal status, place of registration and principal place of business of the company or firm or partners of each party thereto constituting the Bidder;
 - b) details of experience and past performance of the Bidder on works of similar nature within the past 10 years and details of current work(s) in hand and other contractual commitments;
 - c) major items of constructional plant proposed for use in carrying out the contract in the format prescribed for this project,

- d) the qualification and experience of key personnel proposed for administration and execution of the Contract, both on and off site, in the format prescribed for this project.
- e) reports on the financial standing of the Bidder such as profit and loss statements, balance sheets and auditor's reports for the past three years, an estimated audited financial projection for the next two years, and an authority from the Bidder to seek references from the Bidder's bankers and clients;
- f) detailed proposed cash flow statement.
- g) information regarding current or any litigation / arbitration in which the, Bidder is or has been involved.
- h) copies of completion certificates issued by various Employers / AE Consultants.
- i) detailed "Construction Methodology" of miscellaneous works, "Construction Schedule", and format of Progress and Monitoring Reports.
- j) proposed plan for setting up Quality Control Unit including details of personnel to be deputed for the same.
- k) detailed Material Procurement Schedule.

3.3 The Bidder shall submit minimum 3 names of specialist firms / sub-contractors (on the format at Appendix-E) for Employer's approval of any one of them.

3.4 If the Bidder does not provide the names and/or if any of the 3 specialist firms/sub-contractors are not acceptable to the Employer, then the option of nomination of such name (s) shall be exercised by the Employer which nomination(s) shall be acceptable and binding to the Bidder.

3.5 The successful Bidder shall submit to the Employer the agreement(s) executed between the specialist firms / sub contractors for each discipline listed in Appendix - E.

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 Employer 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 for themselves on their own responsibility 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 Employer 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 Employer, 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**

- 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.

Volume I

1. Instructions to Bidders.
2. Bidding Data.
3. General Conditions of Contract, Part-I (GCC).
4. Particular Conditions of Contract, Part-II (PCC).
5. Form of Bid & Appendices to Bid.
6. Form of Bid Security.
7. Form of Contract Agreement.
8. Forms of Performance Security and Mobilization Advance Guarantee / Bond.

Volume II

9. Specifications – Special Provisions.
10. Specifications - Technical Provisions.

Volume III

11. Bill of Quantities.

Volume IV

12. Tender Drawings.

Signature of Client

Signature of Contractor

- 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 Bidding Documents will be rejected.

IB.8 Clarification of Bidding Documents

- 8.1 Any prospective bidder requiring any clarification (s) in respect of the Bidding Documents may notify the Employer in writing at the Employer's address indicated in the Invitation for Bids. The Employer will respond to any request for clarification which he receives earlier than 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids.

Copies of the Employer's response will be forwarded to all purchasers of the Bidding Documents, including a description of the enquiry but without identifying its source.

IB.9 Amendment of Bidding Documents

- 9.1 At any time prior to the deadline for submission of bids, the Employer may, for any reason, whether at his own initiative or in response to a clarification requested by a prospective 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 7.1 hereof and shall be communicated in writing to all purchasers of the Bidding Documents. Prospective bidders shall acknowledge receipt of each addendum in writing to the Employer.
- 9.3 To afford prospective bidders reasonable time in which to take an addendum into account in preparing their bids, the Employer may extend the deadline for submission of bids in accordance with Clause 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 Employer shall be in the bid language stipulated in the Bidding Data and Particular Conditions of 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 power of attorney 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 alongwith average annual construction turnover
 - (ii) Financial predictions for the current year and the two following years including the effect of known commitments
 - (iii) Work commitments since prequalification
 - (iv) Current litigation information
 - (v) Availability of critical equipment
 - (vi) Information of technical manpower to be posted at the site with particulars regarding name, qualifications and relevant experience
- (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) The bid and in case of a successful bid, the Form of Contract Agreement shall be signed so as to be legally binding on all partners;
- (b) 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;

- (c) The partner-in-charge shall always be duly authorized to deal with the Employer 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(b) above as well as in the Form of Bid and in the Form of Contract Agreement (in case of a successful bid); and
- (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 partner without prior written consent of the Employer.

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 in Sub-Clause 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 Sub-Clause 1.1 hereof, based on the unit rates and / or prices submitted by the bidder.

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 Employer when executed and shall be deemed covered by rates and prices for other items in the Bill of Quantities.

12.3 All duties, taxes and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, as on the date 28 days prior to the deadline for submission of bids shall be included in the rates and prices and the total Bid Price submitted by a bidder.

Additional / reduced duties, taxes and levies due to subsequent additions or changes in legislation shall be reimbursed / deducted as per Sub-Clause 70.2 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 70 of the Conditions of Contract. 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.

IB.14 Bid Validity

- 14.1 Bids shall remain valid for the period stipulated in the Bidding Data after the Date of Bid Opening specified in Clause IB.23.
- 14.2 In exceptional circumstances, prior to expiry of the original bid validity period, the Employer may request that the bidders extend the period of validity for a specified additional period which shall in no case be more than the original bid validity period. The request and the responses thereto shall be made in writing. A bidder may refuse the request without forfeiting his Bid Security. A bidder agreeing to the request will not be required or permitted to modify his bid, but will be required to extend the validity of his 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 his 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 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 Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur valid for a period 28 days beyond the Bid Validity date.
- 15.3 Any bid not accompanied by an acceptable Bid Security shall be rejected by the Employer as non-responsive.
- 15.4 The bid securities of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as promptly as possible, but not later than 28 days after the expiration of the period of Bid Validity.
- 15.5 The Bid Security of the successful bidder will 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 22.1;
- (b) if the bidder does not accept the correction of his Bid Price pursuant to Sub-Clause 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 by Bidder

- 16.1 Should any bidder consider that he can offer any advantages to the Employer by a modification to the designs, specifications or other conditions, he may, in addition to his bid to be submitted in strict compliance with the Bidding Documents, submit any Alternate Proposal(s) containing (a) relevant design calculations; (b) technical specifications; (c) proposed construction methodology; and (d) any other relevant details / conditions, provided always that the total sum entered on the Form of Bid shall be that which represents complete compliance with the Bidding Documents.
- 16.2 Alternate Proposal(s), if any, of the lowest evaluated responsive bidder only may be considered by the Employer as the basis for the award of Contract to such bidder.

IB.17 Pre-Bid Meeting

- 17.1 The Employer may, on his own motion or at the request of any prospective bidder(s), 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, is as stipulated in the Bidding Data. All prospective bidders or their authorized representatives shall be invited to attend such a pre-bid meeting.
- 17.2 The bidders are requested to submit questions, if any, in writing so as to reach the Employer 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 purchasers of the Bidding Documents. Any modification of the Bidding Documents listed in Sub-Clause 7.1 hereof which may become necessary as a result of the pre-bid meeting shall be made by the Employer 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 No alteration is to be made 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 completely and without alterations one (1) original and number of copies, specified in the Bidding Data, of the documents comprising the bid as described in Clause IB.7 and clearly mark them "ORIGINAL" and "COPY" as appropriate. In the event of discrepancy between them, 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 or persons duly authorized to sign on behalf of the bidder pursuant to Sub- Clause 11.1(a) hereof. All pages of the bid shall be initialed and stamped by the person or persons signing the bid.
- 18.6 The bid shall contain no alterations, omissions or additions, except to comply with instructions issued by the Employer, or as are necessary to correct errors made by the bidder, in which case such corrections shall be initialed by the person or persons signing the bid.
- 18.7 Bidders shall indicate in the space provided in the Form of Bid their full and proper 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 each copy of the Bid shall be separately sealed and put in separate envelopes and marked as such.
 - (b) The envelopes containing the ORIGINAL and copies will be put in one sealed envelope and addressed / identified as given in Sub- Clause 19.2 hereof.

Signature of Client

Signature of Contractor

19.2 The inner and outer envelopes shall:

- (a) be addressed to the Employer 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 19.2 hereof, the inner envelope shall indicate the name and 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 Employer 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 Employer at the address specified no 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 will 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 Employer may, at his discretion, extend the deadline for submission of bids by issuing an amendment in accordance with Clause IB.9, in which case all rights and obligations of the Employer and the bidders previously subject to the original deadline will thereafter be subject to the deadline as extended.

IB.21 Late Bids

- 21.1 (a) Any bid received by the Employer after the deadline for submission of bids prescribed in Clause IB.20 will be returned unopened to such bidder.

- (b) Delays in the mail, delays of 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 determine the manner in which timely delivery of his bid will be accomplished either in person, by messenger or by mail.

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 Employer 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 Sub-Clauses 22.1 and 27.2.
- 22.4 Withdrawal of a bid during the interval between the deadline 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 The Employer 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' representatives who are present shall sign a register evidencing their attendance.
- 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 The bidder's name, total Bid Price and price of any Alternate Proposal(s), any discounts, bid modifications, substitution and withdrawals, the presence or absence of Bid Security, and such other details as the Employer may consider appropriate, will be announced by the Employer at the opening of bids.
- 23.4 Employer shall prepare minutes of the bid opening, including the information disclosed to those present in accordance with the Sub-Clause 23.3.

IB.24 Process to be Confidential

- 24.1 After the public opening of Bids, information relating to the examination, clarification, evaluation and comparison of Bids and recommendations concerning the award of contract shall not be disclosed to Bidders or other persons not officially concerned with such process.
- 24.2 Any effort by a Bidder to influence the Employer in the process of examination clarification, evaluation and comparison of Bids, and in decisions concerning award of contract, may result in the rejection of the Bidder's Bid.

IB.25 Clarification of Bids

- 25.1 To assist in the examination, evaluation and comparison of bids, the Employer may, at his discretion, ask any bidder for clarification of his 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 Employer 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 Employer will determine whether each bid is substantially responsive to the requirements of the Bidding Documents.
- 26.2 A substantially responsive bid is one which (i) meets the eligibility criteria; (ii) has been properly signed; (iii) is accompanied by the required Bid Security; and (iv) 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 Employer'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.
- 26.3 If a bid is not substantially responsive, it will be rejected by the Employer, and may not subsequently be made responsive by correction or withdrawal of the non-conforming deviation or reservation.

IB.27 Correction of Errors

- 27.1 Bids determined to be substantially responsive will be checked by the Employer for any arithmetic errors. Errors will be corrected by the Employer 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 Employer 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 Employer in accordance with the above procedure for the correction of errors and with the concurrence of the bidder, 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 15.6(b) hereof.

IB.28 Evaluation and Comparison of Bids

28.1 The Employer 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 Employer 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 and the provision, if any, for contingencies in the Summary Bill of Quantities, but including competitively priced Daywork; 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 Employer's estimate of the cost of work to be performed under the Contract, the Employer 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 Employer 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 Employer against financial loss in the event of default of the successful bidder under the Contract.

F. AWARD OF CONTRACT**IB.29 Award**

- 29.1 Subject to Clauses IB.30, the Employer will 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 Price, provided that such bidder has been determined to be eligible in accordance with the provisions of Clause IB.3 and qualify pursuant to Sub-Clause IB 29.2.
- 29.2 The Employer, having credible reasons for, or *prima facie* evidence, of any defect in bidder's capacities, will determine to its satisfaction that the substantially responsive, lowest evaluated Bidder, whether already prequalified or not, is qualified to satisfactorily perform the Contract in accordance with the applicable Qualification Criteria including the following:
- (a) The Bidder should have successfully completed at least one similar project in the last five years either independently or as a lead partner; and
 - (b) the Bidder should have successfully completed in the last five years any specific project having value equal to or higher than the total Bid Price.

IB.30 Employer's Right to Accept any Bid and to Reject any or all Bids

- 30.1 Notwithstanding Clause IB.29, the Employer reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to award of Contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or any obligation except that the grounds for rejection of all bids shall upon request be communicated to any bidder who submitted a bid, without justification of grounds. Rejection of all bids shall be notified to all bidders promptly.

IB.31 Notification of Award

- 31.1 Prior to expiration of the period of bid validity prescribed by the Employer, the Employer will notify the successful bidder in writing ("Letter of Acceptance") that his Bid has been accepted. This letter shall name the sum which the Employer will pay 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, Employer may have clarification meetings to get 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 Employer and the bidder till signing of the formal Contract Agreement.

- 31.4 Upon furnishing by the successful bidder of a Performance Security, the Employer will promptly notify the other bidders that their Bids have been unsuccessful and return their bid securities.

IB.32 Performance Security

- 32.1 The successful bidder shall furnish to the Employer a Performance Security in the form 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.

IB.33 Signing of Contract Agreement

- 33.1 Within 14 days from the date of furnishing of acceptable Performance Security under the Conditions of Contract, the Employer 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 Employer and the successful bidder shall be executed within 14 days of the receipt of the Contract Agreement by the successful bidder from the Employer.

IB.34 General Performance of the Bidders

The Employer reserves the right to obtain information regarding performance of the bidders on their previously awarded contracts/works. The Employer may in case of consistent poor performance of any Bidder as reported by the employers of the previously awarded contracts, inter alia, reject his bid and/or refer the case to the Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC). Upon such reference, PEC in accordance with its rules, procedures and relevant laws of the land take such action as may be deemed appropriate under the circumstances of the case including black listing of such Bidder and debarring him from participation in future bidding for similar works.

IB.35 Integrity Pact

The Bidder shall sign and stamp the Integrity Pact provided at Appendix-L to Bid in the Bidding Documents for all Federal 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

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.