



ECOWAS COMMISSION
COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
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**CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE FEASIBILITY, PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING DESIGN AND FINANCING STUDY OF
THE BANJUL–BARRA BRIDGE PROJECT IN THE GAMBIA**

RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION NO.1

(13TH JUNE 2025)

S/NO	REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS	ECOWAS RESPONSES
1	"Member States' firms" is plural and suggests that for the joint venture must consist of more than one firm from the Ecowas Member States. Is this correct? If not, please guide us how we should interpret it.	No, the joint venture does not have to consist of multiple ECOWAS Member State firms. The JV could be with any firms incorporated in ECOWAS Member States and owned by nationals as explained in clarification No. 2 below.
2	What is the definition of a Member States' firm? Can this be an entity formally established and registered in an Ecowas Member State, but having a mother company outside the Ecowas Member States?	According to the ECOWAS Procurement Code, a "Member States' firm" must be incorporated or registered and tax resident in an ECOWAS Member State. Furthermore, at least 51% of its authorized capital must be owned by nationals of ECOWAS Member States. Thus, entities controlled by external parent companies would not qualify unless they meet the 51% ECOWAS national ownership criterion.
3	Do we have to submit the EOI in the English and in the French language, or can we submit in the English language only?	Consultants are requested to submit EOI in French (Original) OR English (Original) language with at least a copy of the EOI in the other language (French or English) for ease of evaluation.
4	<p>As per TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR); (Page 2 of TOR); clause 6. It reads Consultants may constitute Joint Ventures to enhance their chances of qualification. In accordance with Article 10.2 of the ECOWAS REVISED PROCUREMENT CODE/SEPTEMBER 2021, foreign firms MUST enter into joint venture agreements with Member States' firms. The accepted minimum Joint Venture partnership share for the West African firm is at least 40%.</p> <p>As above, we are willing to participate in the proposed EOI submission as LEAD firm and would be taking local firm as sub-consultant. We</p>	<p>No. The requirement as indicated in the EOI is that Foreign Firms MUST enter into joint venture with Member States' firms. This is in furtherance with the ECOWAS Procurement Code which specifically requires an international firm to form a joint venture, not a sub-consultancy, with an ECOWAS Member State firm. Refer to clarification in No. 2, above.</p> <p>For this tender, the ECOWAS firm must have a minimum joint venture share of 40% to ensure meaningful local participation.</p>



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	understand that being International Firm we can take local firm as sub-consultant. Kindly confirm	
5	Can international firm submit or participate in this EOI submission as a sole firm. Kindly confirm.	No. Refer to clarifications above. According to the ECOWAS Procurement Code, an international firm must enter into a joint venture with at least one ECOWAS Member State firm to be eligible for participation when the project is fully funded by ECOWAS Community Funds.
6	Is it a mandatory requirement for the Lead Team members to have a working knowledge of French language in view of English language being the primary language of the host country?	It is not a mandatory requirement for Lead Team members to have a working knowledge of the French language. Given that The Gambia, the host country, is an English-speaking Member State, English will be the primary working language for the assignment. However, as the project has regional relevance within the ECOWAS community, familiarity with French may be an added advantage during stakeholder consultations or interactions with Francophone Member States, but it will not be a basis for disqualification. This will also constitute a form of disadvantage during the EOI evaluation.
7	Where the Lead Team members do not have a working knowledge of French language, would this be considered as grounds for disqualification or any other form of disadvantage during the evaluation?	No. The lack of a working knowledge in French language among Lead Team members will not be considered grounds for disqualification. However, this will attract a form of disadvantage during the EOI evaluation. Proposals will however be assessed strictly based on the published evaluation criteria, which focus on technical competence, relevant experience, and understanding of the assignment.
8	Is it a mandatory requirement for the EOI to be submitted in both English and French languages?	Consultants are to submit the EOI in English with at least a copy of the EOI in French.
9	Is it a mandatory requirement for the reports and other deliverables for the feasibility study to be submitted in both English and French languages?	Yes, it is mandatory to submit reports and other deliverables for the feasibility study to be submitted in both English and French.



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10	<p>Request to confirm that Expression of interest documents can be electronically submitted by email?</p> <p>In the affirmative, shall electronic submission be considered valid and exhaustive or shall it be integrated by paper copies?</p>	<p>Yes, Expression of Interest (EOI) documents can be submitted electronically by email to the following email addresses: procurement@ecowas.int;</p> <p>With copy to : sbangoura@ecowas.int; ikkamara@ecowas.int; amaliki@ecowas.int; cappiah@ecowas.int; ombacke38@yahoo.fr</p> <p>Electronic submissions shall be considered valid and exhaustive for the purposes of the EOI stage. There is no requirement to submit paper copies to complement the electronic submission at this stage. All documents sent electronically must be complete, properly formatted, and received before the deadline stated in the EOI advertisement.</p>

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Ibrahime Kalil KAMARA
Principal Procurement Officer