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Questions from Industry

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Section C.2.2.1. – p2

- "The objective of this evaluation is to conduct economic *analysis (HDM-4/RED)…"*
  - **Q:** The input data for HDM-4 and RED is quite different and the time inputs required are very different. Can MCC specify their preference/requirement of the two, and allow for the difference in LOE required.
  - **A:** We look to the Independent Evaluator to recommend the approach that will result in the most cost-effective learning.

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Section C.2.2.6. – p3

- "The distinction between the Core and Supplemental Questions is reflected in the Tasks, Phases and Option Periods. After the Evaluation Design Report, if Option Period I is exercised, work to answer all questions will be completed. If Option Period II is exercised, only work to answer the Core Questions will be completed."
  - **Q:** However, the CLIN structure appears to be set up differently, such that OP1 and OP2 each have A and B options depending on which research questions are to be answered. Could MCC clarify the structure for the different options?
  - **A:** The CLIN structure is correct. Option Period I is the Data Collection Phase (Phase 2). If *all* questions will be answered, CLIN 1001A will be exercised; if only the core questions will be answered, CLIN 1001B will be exercised. Similarly, Option Period II corresponds with Phase 3, Final Evaluation Report. If CLIN 1001A (all questions) was exercised in Option Period I, then CLIN 2001A will be exercised; if CLIN 1001B (core questions) was exercised, then CLIN 2001B will be exercised. Paragraph C.2.2.6 will be corrected accordingly.

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Section C.2.2.7.1.1. – p4

- "The Evaluator shall first assess the quality of pre-existing data (as available) and then collect the updated data required for modeling."
  - **Q:** Will the previously collected data be available prior to submitting our bids to allow offerors to gauge the level of required details for data collection?
  - **A:** The assessment of data quality is to be done within the contracted period. Quotations should explicitly indicate the offerors' best informed expectations/ assumptions regarding data quality based on knowledge of country and experience in similar contexts. Pricing should reflect these expectations.

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General – Existing Data

- **Q:** As MCC is aware the amount and quality of pre-existing data will affect the quality/difficulty of the verification/comparison process. Can MCC provide the level of data availability for each compact and project in order for offerors to fulfill these requirements or will a sufficient caveat be written into the requirement?

- **A:** See answer to previous question.

Section H.1.4. – p27
Qualification Requirements

- **Q:** The personnel requirements indicate that the Team Leader should have 20+ years of road engineering and economics as well as 10+ years of road measurement experience. These skills are clearly needed for this evaluation team. However, a Team Leader must also possess strong project and team management experience as well as the ability to write clear and succinct public policy-style evaluation reports. These management and writing skills may or may not be available in a strong engineering and economics specialist to make a good Team Leader. **Would MCC consider integrating the road engineering, economics, and measurement requirements into the "Core Team" requirements, which would provide bidders more flexibility in determining which of the Core Team members would make the best Team Leader?**
- **A:** MCC will consider this request and will reflect any updates in the RFQ.

Section H.1.4.3.(c) – p28

- **Q:** H.1.4.3 section (c) on page 28 provides a list of key personnel positions to be completed by the offeror. The listed positions include, Team Leader, Core Team Staff, Senior Analyst: Engineering/HDM-IV Specialist, Senior Analyst: Political Economist, Senior Analyst: Road Maintenance Expert, and Senior Analyst: Transport Economist. However, the Core Team requirements indicate, "Though all three key areas must be covered by the Core Team, with the requisite experience, one team member could play more than one specialized role." Thus, it may be possible that not all of the listed positions under H.1.4.3 may be needed and/or may be combined in a single individual. Is this interpretation correct? **Can MCC confirm that the positions listed under H.1.4.3 are indicative and not necessarily required, assuming that all necessary skill sets are covered amongst the proposed Core Team members?**
- **A:** Yes. MCC prefers leaving final organizational decisions to the individual offerors. However, the offeror must clearly demonstrate that the proposed Core Team meets all of the required qualifications.

Annex J.11 – p1
Research Area 1: ERR and HDM4; Deflection

- "The deflection measurements shall be performed at one kilometer increments on each road section….Measurements should be made at intervals of no more than 100 meters."
  - **Q:** Could MCC please indicate which is required, 100 m or 1 km intervals?
  - **A:** Deflection shall be measured at 1 km intervals. IRIs shall be measured at 100 m intervals. The RFQ will reflect this update.

Annex J.11 – p2
Research Area 1: ERR and HDM4; Geotechnical

- **Q:** There is currently no statement of requirement for the measurement/core spacing for non-asphalt roads. If any non-asphalt roads are to be evaluated, can MCC please provide measurements/core spacing requirements for such roads? This will ensure fair evaluation amongst bidders.
- **A:** TBD

Annex J.11 – p4
Research Area 1: ERR and HDM4; Traffic

- "The Evaluator shall be responsible for determining the seasonal traffic variations and shall propose a methodology in the initial proposals methodology."
  - **Q:** In the absence of long term traffic data collection in the country it is impracticable to define accurately the likely seasonal variations. Collection of relevant data in the absence of current data will be a long term input. We would suggest that MCC re-evaluate the need for this requirement, especially in light of the period of performance for the award.
  - **A:** Clearly the relevant data constraints are country-specific and MCC will value country-specific insights that individual offerors can bring to their quotations. MCC is not able to remove the true uncertainty that exists due to seasonality, and therefore must rely on the technical expertise of the offerors to suggest how best to address this uncertainty. MCC will seek offerors' recommendations on the advisability of alternative approaches to dealing with seasonal variability (e.g., use of seasonality from neighboring major roads? Similar countries? Suggest reasonable expected ranges? Extended period of performance?)

Annex J.11 – p4
Research Area 4: Transportation Market Structure

- "The Evaluator shall collect recent satellite imagery for pre-construction work at a resolution of 50cm or better…"
  - **Q:** Satellite imagery of the pre-construction conditions may not be available at the required resolution, or at all, unless it was a specific requirement of the original designs. We suggest that MCC remove this requirement, provide the pre-construction imagery (if it was taken at that time), or accept any commercially available imagery that existed prior to construction.
  - **A:** Where available, the Evaluator shall collect recent satellite imagery for pre-construction work. A resolution of 50 cm or better is *desired*. Revisions will be made within the RFQ.

Annex J.11 – p4
Research Area 4: Transportation Market Structure

- "The Evaluator shall collect…aerial imagery at a resolution of 5cm or better for the constructed works of each road…"
  - **Q:** Does MCC also require a Digital Terrain Model?
  - **A:** No.

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Annex J.12

- **Q:** The description for Mongolia indicates that the first round of data collection should be started by June/July 2017. Given a firm has not yet been procured, is this time frame correct?

- **A:** Justifiable concern is recognized; this will be revised in the final RFQ. But more broadly, MCC will consider well-justified offeror recommendations of preferred data collection time frames.

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Contract Vehicle

- **Q:** Which existing contract vehicle(s) is MCC anticipating to use to procure these opportunities?

- **A:** MCC intends to solicit on a full and open basis on FedBizOpps; use of an existing contract vehicle is not envisioned.

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Eligibility

- **Q:** Is a non-U.S. vendor eligible to receive a contract under these requirements?

- **A:** This will depend on the acquisition method that is selected when the solicitation is released. If it's a full and open requirement posted on FedBizOpps (as anticipated), then foreign companies will be eligible. However, the acquisition strategy is subject to change before the solicitation is issued. Vendors should continue to monitor FedBizOpps for updates on this opportunity.

Solicitation Release Date

- **Q:** When do you expect to release the Solicitation?

- **A:** The solicitation is expected to be issued within the next 6-8 weeks.

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Audience Questions?