

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Date: June 30, 2022

REFERENCE: RFP-CATALYZE-217772-Ethiopia-2022-0311 SME CERTIFICATION ADVISORY SERVICE

Dear Offerors,

Please see below answers to the questions submitted to ethiopiams4g.procurement@thepalladiumgroup.com and questions raised during the bidder's conference conducted on June 24, 2022.

No	Question	Answer
1	Can Offerors also consider international certifications for all 8 enterprises?	We are targeting 50% local certifications and 50% international certifications but may have some flexibility based on the needs of the enterprises.
2	Are Offerors also expected to indicate the cost of audit and certification or only our service costs?	Offerors are expected to indicate the cost of the audit and certification as well as their service costs. However, the cost of certification will be handled separately from the cost of the service provider.
3	Can one enterprise be allowed for more than one certification?	We are targeting one certificate per enterprise.
4	Will the BASP need to select the certification provider?	Both enterprise and certification advisory service providers will identify the required certification.
5	What type of certificate is going to provide for the SMEs? Is it based on quality management product safety, environmental or social standards?	MS4G is a program focused on strengthening the resilience and growth of private enterprise in the Food Security and WASH sectors, and the certifications will be based on the demand as articulated by the enterprises in the MS4G ecosystem.
6	What will be the project timeline?	The project timeline is 12 months.
7	For those that require international certification, should we only propose in ETB or possibly propose in USD?	Offerors must prepare their financial proposals using the budget template provided by MS4G. The template requires you to submit your financial offer in both currencies. Costs related to paying third-party certification bodies do not need to be included. Once certification needs have been identified, MS4G will contract and pay the certifying body directly. All payments to local entities will be made in local currency (ETB) at the prevailing exchange rate at time of payment.
8	Please clarify the scope of the SMEs i.e., the actual products they deal with, number of personnel. This is key in Certification technical review and quotation.	MS4G works to strengthen the growth and resilience of high growth potential small and medium sized enterprises within the WASH and Food Security sectors. The specific products, number of personnel, etc. will depend on the enterprises selected to participate in this program.