

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

RFP # ATA-014

For the provision of

**Technical assistance on facilitation of export-oriented business acceleration program for Kyrgyz food companies in the South of Kyrgyzstan**

Contracting Entity:

**The Branch of Chemonics International Inc. in the Kyrgyz Republic**

**125/1, Toktogul street, office 609, Bishkek**

**Kyrgyz Republic**

Funded by:

United States Agency for International Development (**USAID**)

Funded under:

**Kyrgyz Agro Trade Activity**

Prime Contract Number **7200AA18D00018/72011520F00004**

**\*\*\*\*\* ETHICAL AND BUSINESS CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS \*\*\*\*\***

Chemonics is committed to integrity in procurement, and only selects suppliers based on objective business criteria such as price and technical merit. Chemonics expects suppliers to comply with our Standards of Business Conduct, available at <https://www.chemonics.com/our-approach/standards-business-conduct/>.

Chemonics does not tolerate fraud, collusion among offerors, falsified proposals/bids, bribery, or kickbacks. Any firm or individual violating these standards will be disqualified from this procurement, barred from future procurement opportunities, and may be reported to both USAID and the Office of the Inspector General.

Employees and agents of Chemonics are strictly prohibited from asking for or accepting any money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, object of value or compensation from current or potential vendors or suppliers in exchange for or as a reward for business. Employees and agents engaging in this conduct are subject to termination and will be reported to USAID and the Office of the Inspector General. In addition, Chemonics will inform USAID and the Office of the Inspector General of any supplier offers of money, fee, commission, credit, gift, gratuity, object of value or compensation to obtain business.

Offerors responding to this RFP must include the following as part of the proposal submission:

* Disclose any close, familial, or financial relationships with Chemonics or project staff. For example, if an offeror’s cousin is employed by the project, the offeror must state this.
* Disclose any family or financial relationship with other offerors submitting proposals. For example, if the offeror’s father owns a company that is submitting another proposal, the offeror must state this.
* Certify that the prices in the offer have been arrived at independently, without any consultation, communication, or agreement with any other offeror or competitor for the purpose of restricting competition.
* Certify that all information in the proposal and all supporting documentation are authentic and accurate.
* Certify understanding and agreement to Chemonics’ prohibitions against fraud, bribery and kickbacks.

Please contact miskakov@kyrgyzagrotrade.com with any questions or concerns regarding the above information or to report any potential violations. Potential violations may also be reported directly to Chemonics at to BusinessConduct@chemonics.com or by phone/Skype at 888.955.6881.

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**List of Acronyms**

AIDAR Agency for International Development (USAID) Acquisition Regulation

CFR Code of Federal Regulations

CO USAID Contracting Officer

COP Chief of Party

COR USAID Contracting Officer’s Representative

CV Curriculum Vitae

DBA Defense Base Act

FAR Federal Acquisition Regulations

MEDEVAC Medical Evacuation

POC Point of Contact

RFP Request for Proposals

SAM System for Award Management

SOW Scope of work

UEI Unique Entity Identifier

U.S. United States

USAID U.S. Agency for International Development

USG U.S. Government

VAT Value Added Tax

**Section I. Instructions to Offerors**

* 1. **Introduction**

Chemonics, the Buyer, acting on behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Kyrgyz Republic Agro Trade Activity (ATA), under contract number USAID Contract No. 7200AA18D00018/72011520F00004 is soliciting offers from companies and organizations to submit proposals to participate with ATA to carry out a technical assistance on facilitation of export-oriented business acceleration program for Kyrgyz food companies in the South of Kyrgyzstan.

The USAID Kyrgyz Republic Agro Trade Activity (ATA) is a five-year project that works to increase jobs and incomes in the Kyrgyz Republic by enhancing the efficiency and competitiveness of the Kyrgyz agricultural businesses, helping them to grow their output and expand trade with Fergana valley countries. Project activities focus on building stronger businesses in three Kyrgyz oblasts (Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Batken) and specifically target opportunities to increase Kyrgyz Republic - Uzbekistan market integration.

Kyrgyz food exporters currently rely on traditional markets and products, overlooking potential products and geographic markets. Over decades, most of the Kyrgyz food products have been and continue to be exported to Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Diversification opportunities remain largely unexplored, both in terms of new products and new markets. Despite existing trade links with the markets that demonstrate high growth and export potential such as Turkey, the Middle East, European Union, and the USA, Kyrgyz food exporters face challenges in capitalizing on these opportunities. While recognizing the need for productivity and supply-side improvements, ATA also emphasizes the importance of providing targeted support to Kyrgyz food companies to enhance their international market presence through the export acceleration program. The acceleration program will consist of the following 5 stages:

Stage 1. Announcement of competition for participation in the Acceleration Program (February 2024)

Stage 2. Selection of applications for participation in the Acceleration Program (March 2024)

Stage 3. Conducting export acceleration training (March – April 2024)

Stage 4. Link finalists with potential buyers in target markets (May - December 2024)

Stage 5. Monitor the progress.

Offerors are invited to submit proposals in response to this RFP in accordance with **Section I Instructions to Offerors**, whichwill not be part of the subcontract. The instructions are intended to assist interested Offerors in the preparation of their offer. Any resulting subcontract will be guided by Sections II and III.

This RFP does not obligate Chemonics to execute a subcontract nor does it commit Chemonics to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals. Furthermore, Chemonics reserves the right to reject any and all offers, if such action is considered to be in the best interest of Chemonics.

Unless otherwise stated, the periods named in the RFP shall be consecutive calendar days.

* 1. **Chronological List of Proposal Events**

The following calendar summarizes important dates in the solicitation process. Offerors must strictly follow these deadlines.

RFP published 23/01/2024

Deadline for written questions 12/02/2024

Answers provided to questions/clarifications 16/02/2024

Proposal due date 23/02/2024

Subcontract award (estimated) 29/02/2024

The dates above may be modified at the sole discretion of Chemonics. Any changes will be published in an amendment to this RFP.

**Written Questions and Clarifications.** All questions or clarifications regarding this RFP must be in writing and submitted to grants@kyrgyzagrotrade.com no later than **12:00 local time on February 12, 2024** Questions and requests for clarification, and the responses thereto, will be circulated to all RFP recipients who have indicated an interest in this RFP.

Only written answers from Chemonics will be considered official and carry weight in the RFP process and subsequent evaluation. Any answers received outside the official channel, whether received verbally or in writing, from employees or representatives of Chemonics International, the Kyrgyz Agro Trade Activity (ATA), or any other party, will not be considered official responses regarding this RFP.

**Proposal Submission Date.** All proposals must be received by the date and time and complying with the instructions as provided in Section I.3.

**Oral Presentations.** Chemonics reserves the option to have select offerors participate in oral presentations with the technical evaluation committee. Interviews may consist of oral presentations of offerors’ proposed activities and approaches. Offerors should be prepared to give presentations to the technical evaluation committee at the ATA office within 2 days of receiving notification.

**Subcontract Award (estimated).** Chemonics will select the proposal that offers the best value based upon the evaluation criteria stated in this RFP.

* 1. **Offer Submission Requirements**

Offerors shall submit their offers electronically only.

Emailed offers must be received no later than **18:00 local time on February 23, 2024,** at the following address:

Gulnara Pazylova

Grants and Procurement Manager

grants@kyrgyzagrotrade.com

Faxed offers will not be considered.

Offerors are responsible for ensuring that their offers are received in accordance with the instructions stated herein. Late offers may be considered at the discretion of Chemonics. Chemonics cannot guarantee that late offers will be considered.

Proposals must be submitted electronically only. Late offers will be considered at the discretion of Chemonics.

Offers must be received by the date and time specified in I.3

Separate technical and cost proposals must be submitted by email no later than the time and date specified in I.3 The proposals must be submitted to the point of contact designated in I.3.

The Offeror must submit the proposal electronically with up to 3 attachments (5 MB limit) per email compatible with MX Word, MS Excel, readable format, or Adobe Portable Document (PDF) format in a Microsoft XP environment. Offerors must not submit zipped files. Those pages requiring original manual signatures should be scanned and sent in PDF format as an email attachment or signed be using e-signatures.

Technical proposals must not make reference to pricing data in order that the technical evaluation may be made strictly on the basis of technical merit.

* 1. **Eligibility Requirements**

Chemonics anticipates issuing a subcontract to one or more companies or organizations provided it is legally registered and recognized under the laws of Kyrgyzstan and is in compliance with all applicable civil, fiscal, and other applicable regulations. Such a company or organization could include a private firm, non-profit, civil society organization, or university.

The award or awards will be in the form of a firm fixed price subcontract (hereinafter referred to as “the subcontract”. The successful Offeror or Offerors if multiple awards, shall be required to adhere to the statement of work and terms and conditions of the subcontract, which are incorporated in Section III herein.

Companies and organizations that submit proposals in response to this RFP must meet the following requirements:

1. Companies or organizations, whether for-profit or non-profit, must be legally registered under the laws of Kyrgyzstan upon award of the subcontract.
2. Firms operated as commercial companies or other organizations or enterprises (including nonprofit organizations) in which foreign governments or their agents or agencies have a controlling interest are not eligible as suppliers of commodities and services.
3. Companies or organizations must have a local presence in Kyrgyzstan at the time the subcontract is signed.

Offerors may present their proposals as a member of a partnership with other companies or organizations. In such cases, the subcontract will be awarded to the lead company in the partnership. The leading company shall be responsible for compliance with all subcontract terms and conditions and making all partnership arrangements, including but not limited to division of labor, invoicing, etc., with the other company(ies). A legally registered partnership is not necessary for these purposes; however, the different organizations must be committed to work together in the fulfillment of the subcontract terms.

* 1. **Source of Funding, Authorized Geographic Code,**
1. Any subcontract resulting from this RFP will be financed by USAID funding and will be subject to U.S. Government and USAID regulations. All goods and services offered in response to this RFP or supplied under any resulting award must meet USAID Geographic Code 937 in accordance with the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 22 CFR §228, available at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title22-vol1/pdf/CFR-2012-title22-vol1-part228.pdf>.

The cooperating country for this RFP is Kyrgyzstan.

1. Offerors may not offer or supply any products, commodities or related services that are manufactured or assembled in, shipped from, transported through, or otherwise involving any of the following countries: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria. Related services include incidental services pertaining to any/all aspects of this work to be performed under a resulting contract (including transportation, fuel, lodging, meals, and communications expenses).
2. Any and all items that are made by Huawei Technology Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, Dahua Technology Company will not be accepted. If quotes include items from these entities, please note that they will be deemed not technically responsive and excluded from competition.
	1. **Validity Period**

Offerors’ proposals must remain valid for 60 calendar days after the proposal deadline.

* 1. **Instructions for the Preparation of the Proposal**

Cover Letter

The offeror shall use the cover letter provided in Annex 1 of this RFP, which confirms organizational information and consent to the validity of this proposal.

Technical Proposal

The technical proposal shall comprise the parts below. Please note that the proposal must be responsive to the detailed information set out in Section II of this RFP, which provides the background, states the scope of work, describes the deliverables, and provides a deliverables schedule.

* Part 1: Technical Approach, Methodology and Detailed Work Plan. This part shall not exceed 3 pages.
* Part 2: Management, Key Personnel, and Staffing Plan. This part shall This part shall not exceed 5 pages. CVs for key personnel may be included in an annex to the technical proposal and will not count against the page limit.
* Part 3: Corporate Capabilities, Experience, and Past Performance. This part shall not exceed 7 pages.

Part 3 must include a description of the company and organization, with appropriate reference to any parent company and subsidiaries. Offerors must include details demonstrating their experience and technical ability in implementing the technical approach/methodology and the detailed work plan.

Additionally, offerors must include 3 past performance references of similar work (under contracts or subcontracts) previously implemented as well as contact information for the companies for which such work was completed. Contact information must include at a minimum: name of point of contact who can speak to the offeror’s performance, name and address of the company for which the work was performed, and email and phone number of the point of contact. Chemonics reserves the right to check additional references not provided by an offeror.

Cost Proposal

The cost proposal is used to determine which proposals represent the best value and serves as a basis of negotiation before award of a subcontract.

The price of the subcontract to be awarded will be an all-inclusive fixed price. Nevertheless, for the purpose of the proposal, offerors must provide a detailed budget showing major line items as well as a budget narrative. Please refer to Annex 2 for detailed instructions and a sample cost structure.

**I.8 Evaluation and Basis for Award**

This RFP will use the tradeoff process to determine best value as set forth in FAR 15.101-1. That means that each proposal will be evaluated and scored against the evaluation criteria and evaluation sub-criteria, which are stated in the table below. Chemonics will award a subcontract to the offeror whose proposal represents the best value to Chemonics and the ATA project. Chemonics may award to a higher priced offeror if a determination is made that the higher technical evaluation of that offeror merits the additional cost/price.

Evaluation points will not be awarded for cost, but for overall evaluation purposes of this RFP, technical evaluation factors other than cost, when combined, are considered approximately equal to cost factors. Cost will primarily be evaluated for realism and reasonableness. If technical scores are determined to be nearly equal, cost will become the determining factor.

In evaluating proposals, Chemonics will use the following evaluation criteria and sub-criteria:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | **Evaluation Sub-criteria** | **Maximum Points** |
| Technical Approach, Methodology, and Detailed Work Plan | Technical know-how – Chemonics will assess whether the proposal explains, understands, and responds to the objectives of the project as stated in the Scope of Work | 10 points |
| Approach and Methodology – Chemonics will assess whether the proposed program approach and detailed activities and suggested timeline fulfill the requirements of executing the Scope of Work effectively and efficiently? | 10 points |
| Sector Knowledge – Chemonics will assess whether the proposal demonstrates the offeror’s knowledge related to technical sectors required by the SOW?  | 15 points |
| **Total Points – Technical Approach** | **35 points** |
| Management, Key Personnel, and Staffing Plan | Personnel Qualifications – Chemonics will evaluate the CVs of the proposed team members and evaluate if the offer has the experience and capabilities carry out the Scope of Work? | 15 points |
| **Total Points – Management** | **15 points** |
| Corporate Capabilities, Experience, and Past Performance | Company Background and Experience – Chemonics will evaluate whether the company experience is relevant to the project Scope of Work? | 25 points |
| Chemonics will assess the past performance of the Offerors by contacting three references who may indicate the Offeror's past performance for projects of similar size and scope  | 10 points |
| Total Points – Corporate Capabilities | **35 points** |
| Total Price | **15 points** |
| **Total Points** | **100 points** |

**I.9** **Negotiations**

Best offer proposals are requested. It is anticipated that a subcontract will be awarded solely on the basis of the original offers received. However, Chemonics reserves the right to conduct discussions, negotiations and/or request clarifications prior to awarding a subcontract. Furthermore, Chemonics reserves the right to conduct a competitive range and to limit the number of offerors in the competitive range to permit an efficient evaluation environment among the most highly-rated proposals. Highest-rated offerors, as determined by the technical evaluation committee, may be asked to submit their best prices or technical responses during a competitive range. At the sole discretion of Chemonics, offerors may be requested to conduct oral presentations. If deemed an opportunity, Chemonics reserves the right to make separate awards per component or to make no award at all.

**I.10** **Terms of Subcontract**

This is a request for proposals only and in no way obligates Chemonics to award a subcontract. In the event of subcontract negotiations, any resulting subcontract will be subject to and governed by the terms and clauses detailed in Section III. Chemonics will use the template shown in section III to finalize the subcontract. Terms and clauses are not subject to negotiation. By submitting a proposal, offerors certify that they understand and agree to all of the terms and clauses contained in section III.

**I.11** **Insurance and Services**

Within two weeks of signature of this subcontract, the Offeror shall procure and maintain in force, on all its operations, insurance in accordance with the charts listed below. The policies of insurance shall be in such form and shall be issued by such company or companies as may be satisfactory to Chemonics. Upon request from Chemonics, the Supplier shall furnish Chemonics with certificates of insurance from the insuring companies which shall specify the effective dates of the policies, the limits of liabilities there under, and contain a provision that the said insurance will not be canceled except upon thirty (30) days' notice in writing to Chemonics. The Supplier shall not cancel any policies of insurance required hereunder either before or after completion of the work without written consent of Chemonics. Note DBA is reimbursable to the Offeror.

DEFENSE BASE ACT (DBA) INSURANCE

a) FAR 52.228-3 WORKER’S COMPENSATION INSURANCE (DEFENSE BASE ACT INSURANCE) (Jul 2014) [Updated by AAPD 22-01- 6-10-22]

The Subcontractor shall (a) provide, before commencing performance under this Subcontract, such workers’ compensation or security as the Defense Base Act (DBA) (42 U.S.C. 1651, et seq.) requires and (b) continue to maintain it until performance is completed. The Subcontractor shall insert, in all lower-tier subcontracts authorized by Chemonics under this Subcontract to which the Defense Base Act applies, a clause similar to this clause imposing upon those lower-tier subcontractors this requirement to comply with the Defense Base Act. DBA insurance provides critical protection and limits on liability. The Subcontractor shall provide a proof of DBA insurance coverage to Chemonics upon request. Chemonics will verify coverage for, at least, projects in high-risk environments and where Chemonics may be providing security.

(b) AIDAR 752.228-3 WORKERS’ COMPENSATION (DEFENSE BASE ACT) [Updated by AAPD 22-01- 6-10-22] As prescribed in AIDAR 728.308, the following supplemental coverage is to be added to the clause specified in FAR 52.228-3.

(1) The Subcontractor agrees to procure DBA insurance pursuant to the terms of the contract between USAID and USAID’s DBA insurance carrier unless the Subcontractor has a DBA self-insurance program approved by the U.S. Department of Labor or has an approved retrospective rating agreement for DBA.

(2) If USAID or Subcontractor has secured a waiver of DBA coverage (See AIDAR 728.305-70(a)) for Subcontractor’s employees who are not citizens of, residents of, or hired in the United States, the Subcontractor agrees to provide such employees with worker’s compensation benefits as required by the laws of the country in which the employees are working, or by the laws of the employee’s native country, whichever offers greater benefits.

(3) The Subcontractor further agrees to insert in all lower-tier subcontracts hereunder to which the DBA is applicable a clause similar to this clause, including the sentence, imposing on all lower-tier subcontractors authorized by Chemonics a like requirement to provide overseas workmen’s compensation insurance coverage and obtain DBA coverage under the USAID requirements contract.

(4) Contractors must apply for coverage directly to Starr Indemnity & Liability Company through its agent, Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA), using any of the following methods:

1. **Website.** There is a website with the option to print a PDF application form and submit it or complete an online application. The link to the website is: <https://www.starr.com/Insurance/Casualty/Defense-Base-Act/USAID---Defense-Base-Act>

2. **Email.** An application form can be emailed to: USAID@marshmma.com

3. **Additional Contacts**. Contacts for Starr Indemnity & Liability Company and its agent, Marsh MMA are available for guidance and question regarding the required application form and submission requirements:

* + Tyler Hlawati (Starr) tyler.hlawati@Starrcompanies.com Telephone: 646-227-6556
	+ Bryan Cessna (Starr) bryan.cessna@starrcompanies.com Telephone: 302-249-6780
	+ Mike Dower (Marsh MMA) mike.dower@marshmma.com Telephone: 703-813-6513
	+ Diane Proctor (Marsh MMA) diane.proctor@marshmma.com Telephone: 703-813-6506

For instructions on the required application form and submission requirements, please refer to [AAPD 22-01](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.usaid.gov%2Fwork-usaid%2Faapds-cibs%2Faapd-22-01&data=05%7C01%7Cmevans%40chemonics.com%7C82de2e3e459d473d0d8808da4fdc5a0c%7C7c1f24a67d39452c82370726e3b19a73%7C0%7C0%7C637910105065625706%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CLgeGEF1%2FLaBSsj238bWxvW6fNha8CKmQtprS8tqpMU%3D&reserved=0). Pursuant to AIDAR 752.228-70, medical evacuation is a separate insurance requirement for overseas performance of USAID funded subcontracts; the Defense Base Act insurance does not provide coverage for medical evacuation. The costs of DBA insurance are allowable and reimbursable as a direct cost to this Subcontract.

Before starting work, the offeror must provide Chemonics with a copy of the DBA coverage policy that covers each of its employees.

(c) AIDAR 752.228-7 INSURANCE ON PRIVATE AUTOMOBILES Pursuant to the clause of this Subcontract entitled “Insurance Liability to Third Persons” (AIDAR 752.228-07), if the Subcontractor or any of its employees, consultants, or their dependents transport or cause to be transported (whether or not at Subcontract expense) privately owned automobiles to the Cooperating Country, or if any of them purchase an automobile within the Cooperating Country, the Subcontractor shall, during the period of this Subcontract, ensure that all such automobiles during such ownership within the Cooperating Country will be covered by a paid-up insurance policy issued by a reliable company providing minimum coverage of US$10,000/US$20,000 for injury to persons and US$5,000 for property damage, or such other minimum coverages as may be set by the cognizant Mission Director, payable in U.S. dollars or its equivalent in the currency of the Cooperating Country. The premium costs of such insurance shall not be a reimbursable cost under this Subcontract.

(d) AIDAR 752.228-70 Medical Evacuation Services (MEDEVAC) Services (July 2007) [Updated by AAPD 06-01].

(1) The Subcontractor shall provide MEDEVAC service coverage to all U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, and Third Country National employees and their authorized dependents (hereinafter “individual”) while overseas under a USAID-financed direct contract. Chemonics will reimburse reasonable, allowable, and allocable costs for MEDEVAC service coverage incurred under this Subcontract. The USAID Contracting Officer through Chemonics will determine the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of the costs based on the applicable cost principles and in accordance with cost accounting standards.

(2) Exceptions: (i) The Subcontractor is not required to provide MEDEVAC insurance to eligible employees and their dependents with a health program that includes sufficient MEDEVAC coverage as approved by Chemonics. (ii) The USAID Mission Director through Chemonics, may make a written determination to waive the requirement for such coverage. The determination must be based on findings that the quality of local medical services or other circumstances obviate the need for such coverage for eligible employees and their dependents located at post.

(3) If authorized to issue lower-tier subcontracts, the Subcontractor shall insert a clause similar to this clause in all lower-tier subcontracts that require performance by Subcontractor employees

e) In addition to the foregoing insurance requirements, the Supplier shall, as a minimum, obtain the following insurance in form and substance satisfactory to Chemonics that are covered by the standard fixed rates in Section 3.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TYPE** | **MINIMUM LIMIT** |
| (a) Defense Base Act or equivalent for waived nationals per FAR 52.228-3 and 52.228-4. The coverage shall extend to Employers Liability for bodily injury, death, and for occupational disease. | As required by DBA |
| (b) Comprehensive General Liability Each Occurrence Combined Single Limit for Personal Injury and/or Property Damage. | $1,000,000$2,000,000 |
| (c) Automobile Liability Combined Single Limit each occurrence | As per AIDAR 752.228-7 and$1,000,000 |
|  (d) Other Required Insurance- Umbrella Insurance additive to (b) and (c) above | $1,000,000/ $2,000,000 |

**I. 12** **Privity**

By submitting a response to this request for proposals, offerors understand that USAID is NOT a party to this solicitation and the offeror agrees that any protest hereunder must be presented—in writing with full explanations—to Chemonics International for consideration, as USAID will not consider protests made to it under USAID-financed subcontracts. Chemonics, at its sole discretion, will make a final decision on the protest for this procurement

**Section II Background, Scope of Work, Deliverables, and Deliverables Schedule**

1. **Background**

Kyrgyz food exporters currently rely on traditional markets and products, overlooking potential products and geographic markets. Over decades, most of the Kyrgyz food products have been and continue to be exported to Russian Federation and Kazakhstan. Diversification opportunities remain largely unexplored, both in terms of new products and new markets. Exports of Kyrgyz food products are characterized by the low survival rate of export relationships, limiting the country's growth potential. Despite existing trade links with the markets that demonstrate high growth and export potential such as Turkey, the Middle East, European Union, and the USA, Kyrgyz food exporters face challenges in capitalizing on these opportunities.

The challenges include limited access to current and appropriate market intelligence, companies not being ready to meet international requirements, and a lack of business relationships in the markets. This leaves the country vulnerable to commodity price volatility and economic fluctuations in its trading partners.

While recognizing the need for productivity and supply-side improvements, ATA also emphasizes the importance of providing targeted support to Kyrgyz food companies to enhance their international market presence through the export acceleration program. The acceleration program will consist of the following 5 stages:

Stage 1. Announcement of competition for participation in the Acceleration Program (February 2024)

Stage 2. Selection of applications for participation in the Acceleration Program (March 2024)

Stage 3. Conducting export acceleration training (March – April 2024)

Stage 4. Link finalists with potential buyers in target markets (May - December 2024)

Stage 5. Monitor the progress.

Below are the key metrics the export acceleration program will have to achieve:

* At least 25 agribusinesses and entrepreneurs receive technical support and mentorship by experienced and professional trackers.
* At least 5 agribusinesses and entrepreneurs sign long-term supply contracts with buyers in export markets.
1. **Scope of Work**

The objective of this acceleration program is to facilitate sustained exports of Kyrgyz food products to Turkey, the Middle East, Uzbekistan and European Union markets and enable agribusinesses to embrace market opportunities. ATA expects that the consultants will provide assistance to 25 chosen Kyrgyz food exporters, encompassing training, consultations, and growth advisory services. The consultants will serve as a facilitator, and advisor for successful export transactions and sustained relationships in the international market.

Stage 1. Announcement of competition for participation in the Acceleration Program:

* Organize an awareness campaign to attract participants from Osh, Jalal-Abad, and Batken oblasts to apply for the acceleration program.

Stage 2. Selection of applications for participation in the Acceleration Program:

* In collaboration with relevant ATA staff, develop criteria and select agribusinesses interested and capable of delivering on signed contracts and meeting market opportunities for selling food products.

Stage 3. Conducting export acceleration training:

* Analyze the portfolio of participants and assign well-matched coaches, mentors, and trackers to advise participants on developing their business models, business plans, challenges, and action plans which define time bound milestones to monitor progress.
* Train participants focusing on building their capacity to successfully enter and maintain long-term sales and market share in export markets. The program should include training on at least the following subjects:
	+ Analysis of target markets, considering factors such as market size, growth potential, regulatory environment, cultural aspects, quality standards, required certifications and other.
	+ Product marketing and market entry strategies (examples could be segmentation and targeting, value proposition development, marketing mix, market entry modes, market testing and adaptation, etc.). Train on effective participation in international exhibitions and negotiation skills as well as development of selling commercial offerings (templates should be provided).
	+ Train in export and import procedures, international logistics, types of export contracts, payment, and delivery terms, required documentation and regulatory compliance.
* Consult participants:
	+ Advise participants on streamlining production processes to ensure international competitiveness.
	+ Advise participants on competitive pricing strategies considering market conditions and buyer expectations.
	+ Provide guidance on product enhancements, innovations, and improvements to meet buyer specifications and expectations as well as applicable quality and safety standards.
	+ Assist participating agribusinesses in developing packaging solutions that comply with international standards and ensure product safety.
	+ Advise on efficient distribution channels, logistics, and supply chain management for cost-effective and timely delivery.
	+ Provide expertise on customs clearance procedures and documentation to facilitate smooth export processes.
	+ Assist in development and implementation of promotional strategies to enhance the visibility and market presence of Kyrgyz products.
	+ Facilitate targeting activities to potential buyers (tailored business emailing messages, content, commercial offerings, product price list, catalogue etc.).

Stage 4. Link finalists with potential buyers in target markets:

* Facilitate the negotiation and finalization of supply contracts between program participants and buyers.

Stage 5. Monitor the progress.

* Follow up with participants to measure their achievement and provide written reports on their progress, including metrics such as number of values of total and export sales, number of new brands introduced, number of new linkages established, number of sales points reached out and other.
* Collaborate with ATA to publicize activities within the program and achievements of participants in social and mass media.

Timeframe

March – August 2024

1. **Deliverables**

The successful offeror shall deliver to Chemonics the following deliverables, in accordance with the schedule set forth in II.4 below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Tasks**  | **Deliverables** | **Due date** | **Payment schedule** |
| Deliverable IInception report | The report should contain results from stage 1 and 2 activities. * Training materials of the acceleration program.
* List of business trackers attracted
 | March 11, 2024 | 20% |
| Deliverable IIMid-term report | The report should contain results from stage 3 and 4.* List of at least 25 export-oriented companies enrolled in the program.
* Progress of each company and roadmap for business development for export with timelines for execution
 | April 30, 2024 | 40% |
| Deliverable IIIFinal report | The report should contain the results of all stages and include the progress of each company, number of values of total and export sales, number of new brands introduced, number of new linkages established, number of potential buyers reached out etc.* At least 5 new export markets accessed.
* Minimum 5 companies accessed new markets.
* At least 7 export contracts signed.
* Minimum 3 success stories and 1 video produced.
 | July 26, 2024 | 40% |

1. **Deliverables Schedule**

The successful offeror shall submit the deliverables described above in accordance with the following deliverables schedule:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Deliverable Number** | **Due Date** |
| Deliverable I – Inception report | 11/03/24 |
| Deliverable II – Mid-term report | 30/04/24 |
| Deliverable III – Final report | 26/07/24 |

 \*Deliverable numbers and names refer to those fully described in II.3 above.

Reports must be submitted in both Russian and **high-quality English translations**. All translation costs for reports must be built into the total fixed cost of the contract.

Requirements for qualified experts/consultants:

* Expertise/Local Organization: A comprehensive understanding of manufacturing business processes and expertise in preparing Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) for exporting products.
* Experience: Demonstrable experience providing consultations and conducting research specifically tailored to food processing enterprises.
* Training Program Development: Skills in developing training programs for the advancement of food processing enterprises, with a minimum of 2 years of proven experience in this capacity.
* International Market Launch: Proven successful experience in providing technical support and facilitating export market entries and sales.
* Expert Team Qualifications (For Legal Entities): Provide relevant experience and qualifications of the expert team that will be actively engaged in the assigned task.
* Experience with Support Organizations: A track record of working with accelerators, incubators, and international donor organizations is considered advantageous and will be viewed positively.

**Section III Firm Fixed Price Subcontract (Terms and Clauses)**

Please see attached document “**Firm Fixed Price Subcontract (Terms and Clauses)**”

**Annex 1 Cover Letter**

[Offeror: Insert date]

The Kyrgyz Republic Agro Trade Activity

The Branch of Chemonics International Inc.in the Kyrgyz Republic

125/1, Toktogul street, office 609, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Reference: Request for Proposals RFP-ATA-014

Subject: [Offeror: Insert name of your organization]’s technical and cost proposals

Dear Mrs. Gulnara Pazylova:

[Offeror: Insert name of your organization] is pleased to submit its proposal in regard to the above- referenced request for proposals. For this purpose, we are pleased to provide the information furnished below:

Name of Organization’s Representative \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Offeror \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Organization \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Taxpayer Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DUNS Number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As required by section I, I.7, we confirm that our proposal, including the cost proposal will remain valid for 60 calendar days after the proposal deadline.

We are further pleased to provide the following annexes containing the information requested in the RFP:

[Offerors: It is incumbent on each offeror to clearly review the RFP and its requirements. It is each offeror's responsibility to identify all required annexes and include them]

1. Copy of registration or incorporation in the public registry, or equivalent document from the government office where the offeror is registered.
2. Copy of company tax registration, or equivalent document.
3. Copy of trade license, or equivalent document.
4. Evidence of Responsibility Statement.

Sincerely yours,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

[Offeror: Insert name of your organization's representative]

[Offeror: Insert name of your organization]

**Annex 2 Guide to Creating a Financial Proposal for a Fixed Price Subcontract**

The purpose of this annex is to guide offerors in creating a budget for their cost proposal. Because the subcontract will be funded under a United States government-funded project, it is important that all offerors’ budgets conform to this standard format. It is thus strongly recommended that offerors follow the steps described below.

Under no circumstances may cost information be included in the technical proposal. No cost information or any prices, whether for deliverables or line items, may be included in the technical proposal. Cost information must only be shown in the cost proposal.

Step 1: Design the technical proposal. Offerors should examine the market for the proposed activity and realistically assess how they can meet the needs as described in this RFP, specifically in section II. Offerors should present and describe this assessment in their technical proposals.

Step 2: Determine the basic costs associated with each deliverable. Offerors should consider best estimate of the costs associated with each deliverable, which should include labor and all non-labor costs, e.g. other direct costs, such as fringe, allowances, travel and transport, etc.

Step 3: Create a budget for the cost proposal. Each offeror must create a budget using a spreadsheet program compatible with MS Excel. The budget period should follow the technical proposal period. A sample budget is shown on the following page. All items and services must be clearly labeled and include the total offered price. The detailed budget must show major line items, including, for example:

1. Salaries
2. Indirect costs
3. Any other costs applicable to the work
4. DBA – see clause I. 11

All cost information must be expressed in Kyrgyz Soms.

Step 4: Write Budget Narrative. The spreadsheets shall be accompanied by written notes in MS Word that explain each cost line item and the assumption why a cost is being budgeted as well as how the amount is reasonable. Supporting information must be provided in sufficient detail to allow for a complete analysis of each cost element or line item. Chemonics reserves the right to request additional cost information if the evaluation committee has concerns of the reasonableness, realism, or completeness of an offeror’s proposed cost.

If it is an offeror’s regular practice to budget indirect rates, e.g. overhead, fringe, G&A, administrative, or other rate, Offerors must explain the rates and the rates’ base of application in the budget narrative. Chemonics reserves the right to request additional information to substantiate an Offeror’s indirect rates.

**Sample Budget**

Offerors should revise the budget line items accordingly in response to the technical and cost requirements of this RFP.



**Annex 3 Required Certifications**

Evidence of Responsibility

1. Offeror Business Information

**Company Name**: Full Legal Name

**Address**: Address

2. Authorized Negotiators

Company Name proposal for Proposal Name may be discussed with any of the following individuals. These individuals are authorized to represent Company Name in negotiation of this offer in response to RFP No.

List Names of Authorized signatories

These individuals can be reached at Company Name office:

Address

Telephone/Fax

Email address

3. Adequate Financial Resources

Company Name has adequate financial resources to manage this contract, as established by our audited financial statements (OR list what else may have been submitted) submitted as part of our response to this proposal.

If the offeror is selected for an award valued at $30,000 or above, and is not exempted based on a negative response to Section 3(a) below, any first-tier subaward to the organization may be reported and made public through FSRS.gov in accordance with The Transparancy Acts of 2006 and 2008. Therefore, in accordance with FAR 52.240-10 and 2CFR Part170, if the offeror positively certifies below in Sections 3.a and 3.b and negatively certifies in Sections 3.c and 3.d, the offeror will be required to disclose to Chemonics for reporting in accordance with the regulations, the names and total compensation of the organization’s five most highly compensated executives. By submitting this proposal, the offeror agrees to comply with this requirement as applicable if selected for a subaward.

In accordance with those Acts and to determine applicable reporting requirements, Company Name certifies as follows:

1. In the previous tax year, was your company’s gross income from all sources above $300,000?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

1. In your business or organization's preceding completed fiscal year, did your business or organization (the legal entity to which the DUNS/UEInumber belongs) receive (1) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues in U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements; **and** (2) $25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from U.S. federal contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, subgrants, and/or cooperative agreements?:

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

1. Does the public have access to information about the compensation of the executives in your business or organization (the legal entity to which the DUNS/UEI number it provided belongs) through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986? (FFATA § 2(b)(1)):

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

1. Does your business or organization maintain an active registration in the System for Award Management ([www.SAM.gov](http://www.SAM.gov))?

[ ]  Yes [ ]  No

4. Ability to Comply

Company Name is able to comply with the proposed delivery of performance schedule having taken into consideration all existing business commitments, commercial as well as governmental.

5. Record of Performance, Integrity, and Business Ethics

Company Name record of integrity is (Instructions: Offeror should describe their record. Text could include example such as the following to describe their record: "outstanding, as shown in the Representations and Certifications. We have no allegations of lack of integrity or of questionable business ethics. Our integrity can be confirmed by our references in our Past Performance References, contained in the Technical Proposal."

6. Organization, Experience, Accounting and Operational Controls, and Technical Skills

(Instructions: Offeror should explain their organizational system for managing the subcontract, as well as the type of accounting and control procedure they have to accommodate the type of subcontract being considered.)

7. Equipment and Facilities

(Instructions: Offeror should state if they have necessary facilities and equipment to carry out the contract with specific details as appropriate per the subcontract SOW.)

8. Eligibility to Receive Award

(Instructions: Offeror should state if they are qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulation and affirm that they are not included in any list maintained by the US Government of entities debarred, suspended or excluded for US Government awards and funding. The Offeror should state whether they have performed work of similar nature under similar mechanisms for USAID. )

9. Commodity Procurement

(Instructions: If the Offeror does not have the capacity for commodity procurements - delete this section. If the Offeror does have the capacity, the Offeror should state their qualifications necessary to support the proposed subcontract requirements.)

10. Cognizant Auditor

(Instructions: Offeror should provide Name, address, phone of their auditors – whether it is a government audit agency, such as DCAA, or an independent CPA.)

11. Acceptability of Contract Terms

(Instructions: Offeror should state its acceptance of the proposed contract terms.)

12. Recovery of Vacation, Holiday and Sick Pay

(Instructions: Offeror should explain whether it recovers vacation, holiday, and sick leave through a corporate indirect rate (e.g. Overhead or Fringe rate) or through a direct cost. If the Offeror recovers vacation, holiday, and sick leave through a corporate indirect rate, it should state in this section the number of working days in a calendar year it normally bills to contracts to account for the vacation, holiday, and sick leave days that will not be billed directly to the contract since this cost is being recovered through the corporate indirect rate.)

13. Organization of Firm

(Instructions: Offeror should explain how their firm is organized on a corporate level and on practical implementation level, for example regionally or by technical practice.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*One of the authorized negotiators listed in Section 2 above should sign*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Subcontractor Size Self-Certification Form

**Reference Number**: [enter the funding agency's solicitation or contract number]

**Project Name**: [enter full name of project]

**Primary NAICS Code**: [enter the [NAICS](https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/Table%20of%20Size%20Standards_NAICS%202022%20Final%20Rule_Effective%20October%201%2C%202022.pdf) code that best describes the work being performed under the subcontract. i.e.: for technical assistance provision use 541990 or management consulting use 541611. For HHE use 484210 and for GIS use 541360. The NAICS codes most commonly used by Chemonics is 541611, 541618, 541620, 541990]

**Company Name**: Full legal name

**Address**: Street address

**City, State, Zip**: City, State Zip

**Contact Person**: Name, Title

**Contact Phone Number**: (555) 555-5555

**Type of Entity**

If you have difficulty ascertaining the business size status, please refer to SBA’s website ([www.sba.gov/size](http://www.sba.gov/size)) or contact your local SBA office.

[ ]  Small Business [ ]  Large Business [ ]  Nonprofit/Educational [ ]  Government [ ]  Non-US

If “Small Business” is checked above, and if applicable, please identify any additional small business designations under which the company qualifies. You may wish to review the definitions for the below categories in the Federal Acquisition Regulation 19.7 or 52.219-8 ([www.acquisition.gov/far/](http://www.acquisition.gov/far/)) to determine applicability.

[ ]  Small Disadvantaged Business [ ]  8(a)

[ ]  HUBZone [ ]  Woman Owned Small Business

[ ]  Veteran Owned [ ]  Service Disabled Veteran Owned

[ ]  Alaskan Native Corporation [ ]  Indian Tribe

By signature below, I hereby certify that the business type and designation indicated above is true and accurate as of the date of execution of this document, and I further understand that under 15 U.S.C. 645(d), any person who misrepresents a business’ size status shall (1) be punished by a fine, imprisonment, or both; (2) be subject to administrative remedies; and (3) be ineligible for participation in programs conducted under the authority of the Small Business Act.

Signature and Title (required) Date

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*CHEMONICS INTERNAL USE ONLY\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

HUBZone Status has been verified in the [System for Award Management database](http://www.sam.gov/content/home) or [Dynamic Small Business Database Search](http://dsbs.sba.gov/dsbs/dsp_searchhubzone.cfm)  as of / / conducted by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .