



Ref No: A- 91 /2009

Date: 11th October 2009

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HANIMAADHOO HYDROPONIC PROJECT TO A COMMERCIAL HYDROPONICS FARM

Description of Requirement

Hanimaadhoo Agriculture Centre (HAC) is situated on Hanimaadhoo Island in the Upper North Province of the Maldives. This is probably one of the most ideal and strategic locations in the country, in close proximity to existing and upcoming exclusive resorts. The island is served by an airport and is well supported by a range of public services. HAC has three commercial nutrient flow hydroponics systems on an area of 35,000 sq ft. An additional 40,000 sq ft of cropping land is available for developmental purposes.

The burgeoning domestic tourism industry with its high and increasing demand for high quality agriculture produce provides an easily accessible niche market. The industry currently loses a significant amount of its revenue as 'leakage effect' on food imports especially vegetables and other commodities that can be produced locally. The Government of Maldives is keen to diversify agriculture in the Maldives and acknowledges that the application of innovative technology is crucial to attract investment required for diversification. Hydroponics production was successfully demonstrated on the HAC facility for 8 years by the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA). A variety of crops including, cantaloupe and honey dew melon, cucumber, chili, tomatoes, lettuce and other high-value vegetables was produced and marketed as high quality products. MoFA is keen to continue hydroponics cultivation and expand production in collaboration with private partners to achieve a private sector led growth in agricultural production.

Scope of Services

The development partners will develop a hydroponics farm utilizing state of the art production systems and infrastructural facilities including energy-efficient technology, analytical instruments and machinery that are eco-friendly and cost effective. This farm will:

1. Enhance consistency and quality of horticulture and floriculture produce for high value niche market.
2. Promote hydroponic technology in the Maldives.

Expression of Interest

In this connection the Government of the Maldives is requesting written 'Expressions of Interest' (EOI) from eligible parties with relevant experience, know-how and with the required operational and financial capacity to collaborate with the Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture on suitable partnerships. The EOI shall consist of the following:

1. Brief profile of the applicant, including (if applicable) current experience in the management of similar enterprises/services by the applicant.
2. Brief concept paper on how partners propose to:
 - a) Develop the aforementioned agriculture concepts and services

Important Notice

1. The EOI does not constitute a solicitation. The Government of Maldives reserves the right to change or cancel the requirements at any time during the EOI and/or solicitation process. Thus by submitting a reply to an EOI does not automatically guarantee that the firm will be considered for receipt of the solicitation when issued.
2. Parties selected for solicitation will hold detailed discussions, survey the existing facilities and regions and propose the project in detail.
3. Parties thus selected may also propose business models that may best suit achieving the aims of the collaboration.
4. Any queries and clarification that the potential firms may have, and GoM considers necessary for the EOI, or preparation of the detailed proposals, may be directed to the correspondence address given below.

Dead line for receipts of EOI: 29th November 2009 before 1500 hrs (local time)

The EOI's must be submitted to:

Invest Maldives
Ministry of Economic Development
1st Floor, Invest Maldives Building
Boduthakurufaanu Magu
Male', Rep.of Maldives,
Tel: (960) 3324767, Fax (960) 3322528
Email: info@investmaldives.org
Website: www.investmaldives.org