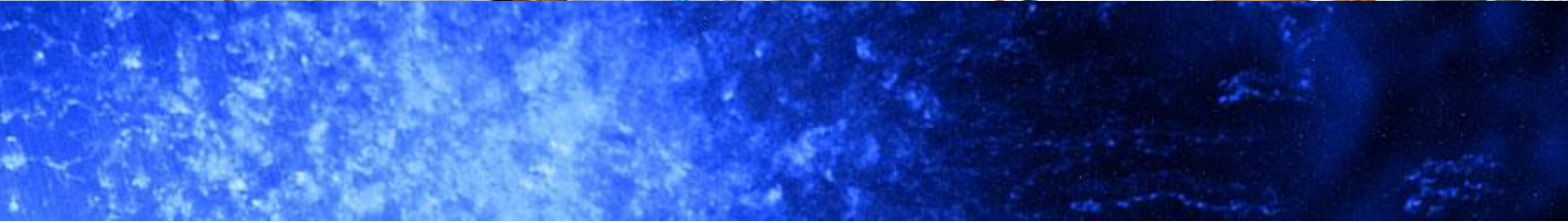




Islamiyya Regional Higher Secondary School under a Public-Private Partnership Contract

Southern Province, Republic of Maldives

Request for Expressions of Interest



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1 Introduction

Fast economic growth, coupled with a long education history and great value attached to education, has led to strong demand for high quality education in the Maldives. Parents have traditionally contributed greatly to the development of schools, demonstrating the keen interest and desire for high quality secondary and higher education characteristic to the Maldives. Since 2008, the Government of Maldives (GOM) has initiated a policy shift toward principally a policy formulation and regulation role by government, and increased involvement of the private sector in service and infrastructure delivery. To this end, GOM has introduced a nation-wide strategy to implement Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in many services and infrastructure, including the education sector.

In this context, the GOM wishes to enter into an indicatively 15-year PPP contract with a private partner for the future operation of the Islamiyya Regional Higher Secondary School in Seena Atoll, Hithadoo, Southern Province. Islamiyya School currently offers education at two grade levels, namely Grades 9 and 10. Under the PPP agreement, Islamiyya school will become the only provider of level A education (Grades 11 and 12) on the island. The GOM wishes to achieve high quality education and pertinent facilities through this PPP. The contract will be awarded through a transparent competitive bidding process to the party offering best value-for-money.

2 Scope and Objectives

The Islamiyya school is located on Hithadoo island in the Southern Province of the Maldives. At this time, Grade 9 and 10 education is provided at the school, with student enrolment of over 300. The current student body is outlined in the table below:

Student Enrolment – Islamiyya School (2010)

	Male	Female	Total
Grade 9	71	68	139
Grade 10	84	84	168
Total	155	152	307

As part of the PPP agreement, the Ministry of Education (MoE) will designate the Islamiyya school as the only provider of level A courses (Grades 11 and 12) on the island. Currently level A courses are delivered by the Muhibuddin School (total of approximately 300 students for grades 11 and 12 combined) adjacent to the Islamiyya school. These students and the responsibility of providing Grade 11 and 12 education will be transferred to the Islamiyya school.

There is considerable potential for further market development of the school. It is expected that the school under private operation can retain students from the island who currently migrate to Malé or abroad for level A education. Similarly, there is potential to attract migratory students from surrounding islands, as well as from the wider Asian region.

In addition to level A education, the private operator may address other educational market segments, such as:

- Professional qualification training e.g. accountancy or marketing
- Diploma level courses
- Vocational training in sectors such as commerce or tourism

The level A education and possible other education services could be provided on a boarding and lodging basis. Buildings used previously as boarding facilities exist, however substantial rehabilitation will be required to bring them to effective use.

Full details on existing facilities and services provided at the DRC will be made available in the Data Room which will be accessible to shortlisted firms during the Request for Proposal stage.

3 Key Project Features

1. **GOM payment for qualifying students** – during the contract period the GOM will pay the private operator an agreed amount for all qualifying students between 16 – 18 years attending accredited courses at the Islamiyya school.
2. **Land and asset ownership** – ownership of the land and facilities will remain with the GOM. The operator will have usage and will maintain the property under a lease agreement.
3. **Cost compensation for possible personnel restructuring** – should restructuring of personnel be required, within applicable criteria such costs (e.g. redundancies) will be borne by the GOM.

4 Procurement Process and Prequalification Criteria

The procurement process entails two consecutive stages, the current Pre-qualification Stage and the Request-for-Proposal Stage. During the current Pre-qualification Stage, interested parties are requested to submit an Expression of Interest (as described below). Based on the Expressions of Interest received, a limited number of firms will be shortlisted and invited to the Request-for-Proposal Stage.

Interested parties are now invited to submit an Expression of Interest with information indicating that they are qualified to carry out the project, in particular in relation to the following criteria:

- A clear and effective vision on educational services and facilities to be provided
- Sufficient experience in the delivery of quality educational services, by demonstrating a proven track record of comparable educational projects and services
- Technical and managerial qualifications to implement and manage the project and contract over its duration
- Sufficient financial standing by demonstrating (through audited financial statements) sound financial performance and an annual turnover of at least US\$2 million in the last three years

Firms may request to be qualified alone, or in consortium with other firms. If the Expression of Interest is from a consortium of firms, information on all firms making up the consortium must be provided, it must be clearly indicated which firm is the lead firm of the consortium, and the nature of the consortium arrangement should be specified, including a consortium letter or agreement signed by all firms. The involvement of appropriately qualified Maldivian firms as bidders or in consortiums is encouraged.

Expressions of Interest should be no longer than 10 pages, excluding supporting financial information or brochures. Submissions marked clearly as “Expression of Interest – Islamiyya Regional Higher Secondary School” should be submitted electronically by email (PDF document) and/or in hard copy before **17:00 Maldives Time, 23rd August 2010** to the address below:

Ministry of Economic Development / Invest Maldives
To the attention of: Ms Fathimath Niuma
fathimath.niuma@trade.gov.mv
Ghazee Building, 1st Floor,
AmeerAhmed Magu,
Male’, Republic of Maldives
Tel: (960) 3324767, Fax (960) 3322528
Website: www.investmaldives.org

This project is part of a nation-wide strategy supported by the Asian Development Bank to introduce Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in social and other infrastructure sectors in the Maldives. The GoM has retained RebelGroup Advisory of The Netherlands as Transaction Advisor.