

Questions and Answers for Solicitation #S-IN650-13-Q-0029 for Providing Media Monitoring Services to Public Affairs Section, New Delhi

1. US embassy mentions it reserves the right to reject a bid if the quotation is unreasonably low or on the higher side (as per Section 4(a)(3)(b) on Page 18. In order to not have rejection of our bid, we would like to know if there is any price band you have set for the service?

The price band cannot be disclosed. The quoted price must be reasonable and must be as per the current market trends.

2. Will price be the sole criterion in awarding of the services. Will other parameters such as vendor's technical qualifications, experience of handling similar assignments be used in arriving at a composite score? What weightage would the corresponding parameters carry?

No, Yes, for a bid to be considered the vendor needs to be technically acceptable. The technical acceptability will be evaluated by a panel. The US Govt. rules states, lowest priced technically acceptable (LPTA)

3. Will the video recording be required to be included along with the late-morning report that includes summaries of television talk show, "conversation" and interview programs commentaries?

We do not need clips, recordings, or links to the TV programs

4. Would request US embassy to provide a list of the exact number of English and TV channels (for talk shows) to be monitored?

Suggested names are mentioned on page 4 of the solicitation document

5. In Section 4(a)(3) on Page 18, it is mentioned that a format of daily press summary and summaries of TV talk show is enclosed within the tender. Would request US embassy to please share as it is missing in the tender documents.

Sample format of the Early Edition for Bidders

THE EARLY EDITION

March 27, 2012

8:00 a.m.

Please note that links to these stories are available for a limited time.

TOP STORIES

[US cries foul over tariff, India raises visa concerns](#)

Business Standard -- US commerce secretary John Bryson, currently in India, has raised the issue of the high tariff India has on some American products. Bryson said because of this, the US was finding it difficult to penetrate the Indian market. Last year, his predecessor, Gary Locke, had complained about the same issue.

['India's high import duties could harm US ties'](#)

[India's high tariffs, local sourcing norms could harm investment, says US](#)

[U.S. asks India to lower tariff wall](#)

['High tariff walls could harm India-US trade relations'](#)

[Government overhauling public procurement system: Anand Sharma](#)

[High tariffs will harm India-US business ties, says US commerce secretary John Bryson](#)

[Personal interview done away with in new US visas](#)

The Statesman -- The US Consulate announced a new “streamlined” visa application service for non-immigrant visa applicants from India today. Those who qualify for the new service will be able to bypass the personal interview currently required for visa applications.

[US visa minus interview](#)

[US visa application process simplified \(Page 3\)](#)

[Pilot programme launched to streamline issuing of US visas \(Page 2\)](#)

[Firms flock to Delhi to woo world's top arms importer](#)

The Times of India - There are going to be 232 foreign firms, mainly from the US, Russia, France, Israel, the UK and Germany, and 60 official delegations in town this week for the four-day "DefExpo-2012" that begins on Thursday.

[Defense ministry warns against engaging with two blacklisted foreign arms firms at DefExpo](#)

[Gov't orders CBI probe after Army Chief claims bribe offer](#)

The Indian Express -- The government has asked the CBI to investigate Army Chief Gen. V K Singh's allegation that a former defense officer had offered him a Rs 14-crore bribe to clear a contract for 600 “sub-standard” heavy vehicles.

[BRICS meet to focus on trade, political ties](#)

Hindustan Times -- Scaling up intra-group trade and increasing the political content in their cooperation will top the agenda when the leaders of five emerging economies-Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS)-meet for their annual summit here on March 29.

[At nuclear summit, new agendas vie for space with security](#)

The Hindu -- As its title makes clear, the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) — now in its second iteration — is all about security: how to ensure that nuclear material around the world does not fall into the wrong hands.

[Stir upped Tamil Nadu N-plant cost by Rs 900 crore: Kadakin](#)

The Times of India - The prolonged protests against the Kudankulam nuclear plant added \$ 180 million to the cost of the power project, with India losing around \$1 million a day, Russian ambassador Alexander M Kadakin has said.

[We will not abide by UNHRC resolution, Sri Lanka says](#)

The Times of India - Sri Lanka on Monday made it clear that it will not abide by the UNHRC resolution that censured it over its human rights record and said it would only implement "feasible" recommendations of its own panel that probed the three-decade-long bloody civil war.

[Moscow dubs UNHRC vote on Lanka 'politically motivated'](#)

[Time for US to dictate terms is over'](#)

The Times of India - A US delegation walked out of a conference on Monday during a speech by Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lambasting US policy on Afghanistan as the source of all the nation's troubles.

[Soon, Indian BTech degrees may be recognized abroad](#)

The Times of India - Engineers with undergraduate degrees will find it easier to seek jobs and opportunities for higher studies abroad from 2013, if India's bid to join the elite Washington Accord for international accreditation is accepted.

[Baseball dream ends but 23-yr-old Varanasi youth returns a winner](#)

Indian Express -- This is what American sporting dreams are made of. Shaking hands with Barack Obama, partying with baseball all-time great Barry Bonds and running into football star Ronaldinho. Only Dinesh Patel, now 23, lived it.

TV HEADLINES

The current top television headlines are: India's nuclear power program to follow highest safety standards; PM; Petrol Prices may go up; Maoists kill 15 security personnel.

TRENDING ONLINE

Currently trending on Twitter in India as measured through www.trendsmap.com is a discussion on the killing of 15 police personnel by Maoists in Maharashtra.

VIEWS

[Non-Alignment 2.0](#)

The Times of India, Arjun Subramaniam -- Strategic autonomy will remain just a concept unless backed with intent and hard power.

[Stick with Seoul](#)

The Times of India, editorial - Nurturing an important relationship.

[Banking on BRICS to deliver](#)

The Hindu, Samir Saran & Vivan Sharan -- If conceptualized carefully, the Bank can help rebalance the global economy leading to equitable and resilient growth.

[A step towards justice](#)

Indian Express, Maja Daruwala -- The UNHRC resolution on Sri Lanka was a game-changer. Now the council must deliver on its promise

[Human rights in Sri Lanka](#)

The Statesman, Salman Haidar -- India felt it necessary to vote against Sri Lanka in the Human Rights Council, and though the reaction in Colombo has been restrained, especially when compared to the outpouring against the USA, there has been some resentment at India's failure to stand by this neighbour and friend.

[Don't turn a blind eye to suffering Tibetans](#)

The New Indian Express, Editorial -- Ahead of Chinese President Hu Jintao's arrival in India for the BRICS Summit a Tibetan set himself on fire.

[Resource crunch at MEA](#)

The New Indian Express, Arvind Gupta -- India's diplomatic resources, already stretched to the limit, will have to be strengthened considerably.

The Times of India - independent, centrist

The Hindu - independent, left-of-center

The Indian Express - independent, centrist

Hindustan Times - independent, centrist

The Economic Times - pro-reform business daily

Business Standard - pro-reform business daily

DNA -- independent, centrist

Hindu Business Line - pro-reform business daily

Mint - pro-reform business daily

Financial Chronicle -- pro-reform business daily

Moneycontrol.com – Indian financial portal

The Telegraph - independent, centrist

The Statesman - independent, centrist

The New Indian Express - independent, centrist

To view entire English newspapers, please go to:

<http://www.sites.google.com/site/indiannewspas/>

For archived versions of this document, and for other India-specific press guidance and analysis, visit our Sharepoint site [here](#).

Sample format of the Television Summary Report for Bidders

Television Summary Report

TV HEADLINES - ENGLISH

Current top news headlines from English news channels: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addresses industry body Assocham's annual general body meeting, says we must bring down our current account deficit to 2.5 percent of GDP; principal opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to announce poll teams today, will set up 11 committees for Lower House elections; forensic report on the causes of death of school children after having mid-day meal likely today; 3 Leftist rebels gunned down in Odisha state by security personnel; Amarnath pilgrimage halted after tensions rise in Kashmir over firing by security forces.

TV HEADLINES - HINDI

Current top news headlines from Hindi news channels: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expresses concern over economy while addressing industry body ASSOCHAM, admits to reducing demand for gold and petroleum products; Prime Minister says foreign direct investments (FDI) has been regularised and more FDI reforms are on the anvil; curfew imposed in Ramban district of Kashmir after violent protests; third phase of West Bengal state village council polls starts amid tight security; P Sathasivam is sworn in as the new Chief Justice of India; BJP to announce Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi's A-team for 2014 elections; forensic report in the mid-day meal deaths likely to be out today.

TRENDING ONLINE

Currently trending on Twitter in India, as measured through www.trendsmap.com: discussions on Detroit filing for bankruptcy; mid day meal deaths in Bihar state; Justice P Sathasivam's swearing-in as the new Chief Justice of India; and discussions on spiritual leader Baba Ramdev's support for Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi.

VIEWS

Late Edition: mountain strike corps

DD News -- Host Mark Lynn discussed the announcement of forming a mountain corps to counter China along the India-China border. He spoke to Brigadier (Retired) Rumel Dahiya, Deputy Director General of the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis; and Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow, Vivekanand Foundation. Brigadier Dahiya said the mountain corps was an outstanding demand for the last five years. He said a deterrence against China was needed, even though it may not actually go to war. On the larger picture, he said, if China felt deterred and did not take any action against India, then others would also feel emboldened and stand up to it. Sareen said an adversary's intentions could change overnight, and if it happened, one needed to have the capability to handle the changed intentions. He said the step was taken towards that direction. He said the announcement by the government for the formation of the mountain corps had a timing attached to it, since there was going to be a discussion on the border agreement

soon. He said India's announcement on the eve of such a meet was its way of signalling to China that it could also play such games. He said a part of international diplomacy was how much one could push the other side and then come up with a document which showed it as the nice guy who was willing to sort things out.

Left, Right and Centre: Discussion on the mid-day meal scheme

NDTV 24X7 -- Host Nidhi Razdan discussed the loopholes in the mid-day meal scheme that led to the deaths of 22 children in Bihar state. She spoke to by Prakash Javadekar of the BJP; Pavan Verma, chief advisor to the Chief Minister of Bihar; Nikhil Dey, convenor, National Campaign for People's Right to Information (NCPRI); and Jayanta Ghosal, editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika. According to Javadekar, the incident was a testimony of our callous approach, and the basic problem with the system was that we did not take lessons until we suffered.

Verma said the Chief Minister was deeply anguished, an enquiry had been immediately ordered, and compensations announced for the victims were being handed out. He said a failing mid day meal scheme was not a pattern in the state, and Bihar had been implementing it on a very large scale. Dey said the incident had brought focus to the mid day meal but in an unfortunate manner.

He said there were states which had set examples on mid day meals and we needed to follow such states. He said the quality of food had changed overnight if our kids would have been going to the schools, but there was a huge gap between the rich and the poor in this country. He believed there were three things that could happen: more resources needed to be put in, we need to understand that governance could not be replaced with cash transfers and most importantly we needed to involve the parents in monitoring such schemes. According to Ghosal, there was a culture of blame game in the country and there should be a political consensus on the issue to resolve it.

6. Has any provision been made for incorporation of additional services in future, such as tracking from Urdu, Hindi press in the tender which we currently provide to our clients? **None so far**

7. Will you be considering only those service providers who can provide both print and electronic media monitoring? **Yes**

8. Will all the bidders be intimated through mail about the result of the bid? **yes**

19. We would like to know the date on which you would like to have the sample of early edition and Television summary report for you to compare against the US embassy's reports? **The day after the bid closes that is August 20 and 21, 2013**

10. Are we required to provide a consolidated quote for the early edition and TV commentary reports. Are the offerers allowed to provide a breakup of the two services separately? **Either way is acceptable**