

The Registration of Interest is extended to Sunday 25 April 2021, 5:00pm Brisbane Time.

The Last date for Queries is extended to Sunday 25 April 2021, 5:00pm Brisbane Time.

The Closing Date and Time is extended to Wednesday 28 April 2021, 5:00pm Brisbane Time

Request for quotation (RFQ) – goods or services

RFQ Title:	RFQ-FW21-003 Understanding Australian/New Zealand trade in the Pacific region
RFQ Issue Date:	18 March 2021
Terms of Reference / Specifications:	The Goods and/or Services to be delivered are detailed in the attached Schedule
Project	Market Development Facility Phase II
The Company	Palladium International Pty Ltd.
Registration of Interest	Register your interest to submit an offer by sending your name, organisation and contact details to the Contact Person by email on or before Wednesday 24 March 2021, 5:00pm Brisbane Time
Last date for Queries	Send queries to the Contact Person by email on or before Friday 26 March 2021, 5:00pm Brisbane Time . Indicate ‘RFQ-FW21-003 Understanding Australian/New Zealand trade in the Pacific region’ in the subject line.
Closing Date and Time	Thursday 1 April 2021, 5.00pm Brisbane Time
Contact Person	Julie Willis Julie.willis@thepalladiumgroup.com +61 404 392 311
Details for Submission	Email completed Response Form (click here to download) to the Contact Person on or before the Closing Date and Time. Indicate “RFQ-FW21-003 Understanding Australian/New Zealand trade in the Pacific region” in the subject line.

Thank you for your interest in the above procurement. As managing contractor for the Project, the Company invites you to submit a quote for the Goods or Services listed below. Your quote will be valid for the Validity Period.

Please forward your quote in accordance with the Details for Submission above by the Closing Date and Time.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Willis
Australian Business Engagement Manager, MDF

Terms and conditions

1. Quote Conditions

By submitting a quote, potential suppliers are bound by these terms and conditions. Potential suppliers must submit offers with all details provided in English and with prices quoted in a single currency.

2. Quote Lodgement

The Company may grant extensions to the Closing Time at its discretion. The Company will not consider any quotes received after the Closing Time specified in the RFQ unless the Company determines to do so otherwise at its sole discretion.

3. Evaluation

The Company may review all quotes to confirm compliance with this RFQ and to determine the best quote in the circumstances.

4. Alterations

The Company may decline to consider a quote in which there are alterations, erasures, illegibility, ambiguity or incomplete details.

5. The Company's Rights

The Company may, at its discretion, discontinue the RFQ; decline to accept any quote; terminate, extend or vary its selection process; decline to issue any contract; seek information or negotiate with any potential supplier that has not been invited to submit a Quote; satisfy its requirement separately from the RFQ process; terminate negotiations at any time and commence negotiations with any other potential supplier; evaluate quotes as the Company sees appropriate (including with reference to information provided by the prospective supplier or from a third party); and negotiate with any one or more potential suppliers.

6. Amendments and Queries

The Company may amend or clarify any aspect of the RFQ prior to the RFQ Closing Time by issuing an amendment to the RFQ in the same manner as the original RFQ was distributed. Such amendments or clarifications will, as far as is practicable be issued simultaneously to all parties.

Any queries regarding this RFQ should be directed to the Contact Person identified on the cover page of this RFQ.

7. Clarification

The Company may, at any time prior to execution of a contract, seek clarification or additional information from, and enter into discussions and negotiations with, any or all potential suppliers in relation to their quotes. In doing so, the Company will not allow any potential supplier to substantially tailor or amend their quote.

8. Confidentiality

In their quote, potential suppliers must identify any aspects of their quote that they consider should be kept confidential, with reasons. Potential suppliers should note that the Company will only agree to treat information as confidential in cases that it considers appropriate. In the absence of such an agreement, potential suppliers acknowledge that the Company has the right to disclose the information contained in their quote.

The potential supplier acknowledges that in the course of this RFQ, it may become acquainted with or have access to the Company's Confidential Information (including the existence and terms of this RFQ and the TOR). It agrees to maintain the confidence of the Confidential Information and to prevent its unauthorised disclosure to any other person. If the potential supplier is required to disclose Confidential Information due to a relevant law or legal proceedings, it will provide reasonable notice of such disclosure to the Company. The parties agree that this obligation applies during the RFQ and after the completion of the process.

9. Alternatives

Potential suppliers may submit quotes for alternative methods of addressing the Company's requirement described in the RFQ where the option to do so was stated in the RFQ or agreed in writing with the Company prior to the RFQ Closing Time. Potential suppliers are responsible for providing a sufficient level of detail about the alternative solution to enable its evaluation.

10. Reference Material

If the RFQ references any other materials including, but not limited to, reports, plans, drawings, samples or other reference material, the potential supplier is responsible for obtaining the referenced material and considering it in framing their quote. And provide it to the Company upon request.

11. Price Basis

Prices quoted must be provided as a fixed maximum price and show the tax exclusive price, the tax component and the tax inclusive price.

The contract price, which must include any and all taxes, supplier charges and costs, will be the maximum price payable by the Company for the Goods and/or Services.

12. Financial information

If requested by the Company, potential suppliers must be able to demonstrate their financial stability and ability to remain viable as a provider of the Goods and/or Services over the term of any agreement.

If requested by the Company, the potential supplier must promptly provide the Company with such information or documentation as the Company reasonably requires in order to evaluate the potential supplier's financial stability.

13. Referees

The Company reserves the right to contact the potential supplier's referees, or any other person, directly and without notifying the potential supplier.

14. Conflict of interest

Potential suppliers must notify the Company immediately if any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest arises (a perceived conflict of interest is one in which a reasonable person would think that the person's judgement and/or actions are likely to be compromised, whether due to a financial or personal interest (including those of family members) in the procurement or the Company).

15. Inconsistencies

If there is inconsistency between any of the parts of the RFQ the following order of precedence shall apply:

- (a) these Terms and Conditions;
- (b) the first page of this RFQ; and
- (c) the Schedule

so that the provision in the higher ranked document will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

16. Collusion and Unlawful Inducements

Potential suppliers and their officers, employees, agents and advisors must not engage in any collusive, anti-competitive conduct or any other similar conduct with any other potential supplier or person or quote any unlawful inducements in relation to their quote or the RFQ process.

Potential suppliers must disclose where quotes have been compiled with the assistance of current or former the Company employees (within the previous 9 months and who was substantially involved in the design, preparation, appraisal, review, and or daily management of this activity) and should note that this may exclude their quote from consideration.

Potential suppliers warrant that they have not provided or offered any payment, gift, item, hospitality or any other benefit to the Company, its employees, consultants, agents, subcontractors (or any other person involved in the decision-making process relating to this RFQ) which could give rise to a perception of bribery or corruption in relation to the RFQ or any other dealings between the parties.

17. Jurisdiction

This Agreement shall be subject to the laws of the Jurisdiction.

The Supplier and the Company will use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of, or relating to this Agreement or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof.

If no agreeable settlement can be found, any dispute, controversy, or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach, termination, or invalidity thereof, shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules in effect on the date of this Agreement. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The Parties will be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such dispute.

The place of arbitration shall be the headquarters location of Company at the time the claim is filed and the language of the arbitration will be English. The relevant laws shall be the laws of the Jurisdiction.

Schedule – Scope of Services

Background

Market Development Facility (MDF) is an Australian Government funded multi-country initiative which promotes sustainable economic development, through higher incomes for women and men, in our partner countries.

We connect individuals, businesses, governments, and NGOs with each other, and with markets at home and abroad. This enhances investment and coordination and allows partnerships to flourish, strengthening inclusive economic growth.

MDF is funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAT). It is implemented by Palladium in partnership with Swisscontact.

MDF is undertaking an assignment to identify opportunities for increased trade between Australia/New Zealand and the Pacific Island countries of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu (Pacific region). The assignment's purpose is to identify potential opportunities to help grow the export of high-value agricultural commodities and value-added products to Australia and New Zealand as well as identify any agriculture inputs and equipment from Australia and New Zealand to the Pacific region. The intervention is being managed by MDF's Pacific regional team based in Fiji and Australia.

The deliverables will be used by MDF teams to understand patterns of existing trade and identify opportunities to increase trade between businesses in Australia/New Zealand and the Pacific region. It will also help MDF identify potential partnerships and develop interventions (projects) that will promote new trade relationships and in doing so, foster long-term inclusive and sustainable growth and support women's economic empowerment across the Pacific region.

Objectives

The research will identify Australian and New Zealand businesses that are trading within the Pacific region and gain an understanding of their demand for and supply of goods – both existing and emerging. It will also provide insights on the challenges and hurdles businesses face in doing business in the Pacific region; and how these challenges may impact their ability or desire to trade.

To support the research project, the consultant will identify existing material that is available to better understand the trade between Australia/New Zealand and the Pacific region. While this is not the focus of the project, international trade data such as trade patterns, volumes, pricing, competition, and regulatory requirements for both import and export and logistical opportunities and challenges would be beneficial and may also provide support when engaging with businesses and industry. This information may be gained through (but not limited to) Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and other development programs such as PHARMA Plus and Pacific Trade Invest.

To achieve these objectives, a mix of research methodologies will need to be implemented and will require engaging directly with Australian and New Zealand businesses and industry.

Methodology

Through quantitative and qualitative research identify Australian and New Zealand businesses operating in the Pacific region; understand key trade challenges and opportunities; and collate key trade data. The research will focus on the following components:

- 1. Primary (80%): identifying & understanding Australian/New Zealand businesses engaging in the Pacific region**

- Identify Australian and New Zealand businesses trading (import and export) in the Pacific region. What countries, what products/services, what businesses are they trading with and respective volumes and value (AUD) for each?
- Identify any gaps (challenges) in the supply chain such quality, production capacity, and ease of doing business that restricts or inhibits commercial trade.
- Identify new or emerging trends (opportunities and growth areas) which may increase trade between Australia and the Pacific region.
- Identify key Australian and New Zealand industries or industry organisations that provide a supporting role for trade between Australia and the Pacific region (beyond those listed in this RFQ below).
- Provide recommendations and short, medium, and long-term priorities.

2. Secondary (20%): collate Australian/New Zealand and Pacific region trade data for prioritised high-value agriculture, fisheries, value-added goods, services (if applicable) including:

- Volume and value (AUD)
- Seasonality and any trade patterns (YoY growth etc).
- Competitors
- New opportunities, trends, and growth areas
- Market access and regulatory requirements for each including PACER Plus and other Free Trade Agreements and Non-Tariff Barriers that may impact trade.
- Logistics (and challenges due to COVID-19).

Support materials and resources

- High-value agriculture priorities for the Pacific region (report) prepared by the Pacific region consultant will be provided to the successful service provider once contracted.
- [PHAMA Plus](#)
- [Pacific Trade Invest](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- [Office of the Pacific](#)
- [Pacific Step-up](#)
- [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(MFAT NZ\)](#)
- [Pacific Reset \(NZ\)](#)

Deliverables/outputs

The deliverable for the Australian business mapping and research will include:

- High-level research plan including timeframes, methodologies, resources, and approach including consultation and meetings – to be submitted to MDF for approval prior to work commencing.
- Research briefs including approach, methodology and questionnaires – to be submitted to MDF for consultation and approval prior to work commencing.
- Research report including key findings, opportunities, prioritisation/areas for focus, and recommendations addressing all sections outlined in the methodology.
- Australian/New Zealand business CRM – list of businesses (ranked in order of prioritisation and rationale), key contacts, business profiles, goods, and services trading in and any potential interests or opportunities.

Evaluation criteria

Technical criteria

MDF will assess each submission based on compliance with this RFQ, ability to meet the requirement as specified and overall value for money. The technical response will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- ④ How you propose to undertake the research specified in this RFQ to best achieve the deliverables/outputs. (40%).
- ④ Demonstrated ability to manage/deliver the Services (60%). These can include:
 - ④ The range and quality of services offered including ideas and processes beyond those outlined in this RFQ;
 - ④ Understanding of the requirement, ability to meet deadlines, implementation methodology and project management processes.
 - ④ Past relevant performance (including case studies, projects, and performance), and
 - ④ Expertise of individual(s) and subcontractors nominated to undertake this research project.

The technical score will account for 80% of the total score.

Financial criteria

Following consideration of the technical response, MDF will undertake a price comparison of all suitable offers. The resulting financial score will account for 20% of the total score.

Proposal format

Interested service providers must complete the Response Form provided with this RFQ to submit an offer.

Supporting documents (not included in word count) may include maximum 2 case studies, business prospectus and short individual and subcontractor bios. Please insert pages and/or links as an appendix in the Response Form. Files must not exceed 5MG and if they do, please we-transfer (free) or use alternate electronic upload. The Response Form and supporting document must be collated and uploaded as a single PDF file.

If your quote is successful, you will be required to enter into the Company's standard contract for the types of goods or services being provided. In the provision of the Goods and Services, you will be required to comply with the Company's policies, including (without limitation) its Business Partner Code of Conduct and any relevant Project Manual. Potential suppliers must also comply with the Company's Business Partner Code of Conduct in the submission of any quotes pursuant to this RFQ.

If you are bidding as part of a joint venture, partnership or similar, please make this clear in your submission. Likewise, if you propose to subcontract any part of the goods or services provision, then disclose this fact within your submission. The Company may require additional information from you and approval for subcontracting will not be automatic as subcontractors will be subject to Palladium's Due Diligence process.