RFP AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT # 1: 2026-31024A Tonga Fuel Transport and Storage Infrastructure Feasibility Study

POC: Anna Amaya, USTDA, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1100, Arlington, VA 22209-3901, Tel: (703) 875-4357, Fax: (703) 775-4037, Email: RFP@ustda.gov.

Please note that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Feasibility Study for the Tonga Fuel Transport and Storage Infrastructure is amended, as follows:

Questions, Answers and Clarifications: This amendment consists of clarifying questions and answers submitted by potential Offerors regarding the RFP packet. Responses to submitted questions are attached.

1. I have a question regarding the Nationality requirements. Annex II Section C: Nationally, Source and Origin Clause C states:

   (C) Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles (A) and (B) above, up to thirty percent (30%) of the Grant Funds may be used to pay for work performed in connection with the Activity by:
   (1) any Subcontractor organized under the laws of either (i) the Host Country or (ii) any Target Country; and (2) any natural person working as (a) a Subcontractor, or (b) an employee of the Contractor or of a Subcontractor, as long as such natural person is either (i) a citizen of the Host Country or a Target Country, or (ii) lawfully authorized to work, or admitted for permanent residence, in the Host Country or a Target Country.

   Based on prior discussions with the USTDA regional team we have been advised you will tend to relax the local national requirements (Tonga in this case) to include the Pacific region, including New Zealand and Australia. This is done to address the limited technical capacity in the Pacific countries, particularly Tonga. Can you please confirm that this will be the case for this opportunity.

   Yes. A U.S. firm must serve as the prime contractor and can request a waiver to the nationality requirements for personnel from New Zealand or Australia to participate as part of their bid. The justification needs to demonstrate that the proposed NZ personnel is best positioned to undertake the work with a specific skillset that is difficult to find in the U.S. or in the host country. We have granted these types of waivers for the Pacific Islands as we recognize that expertise for work in the region may best come from New Zealand or Australia.

2. Schedule: Is there a timeline goal/funding deadline for completing the feasibility study?
   The feasibility study is expected to be completed approximately 11 months from the commencement of work.

3. Technical Review and Surveys/Reference Task Values (21%) (Page28): We understand that this list serves as a sample and we may adjust the percentage allocations as needed. Can you provide more detail of the on-site vs. desktop technical review and surveys that are required?

   The percentages are the Independent Government Cost Estimate, but Offerors have the discretion to submit a budget based on their individual work plan. USTDA envisioned three trips for this activity. One for Tasks 1 & 2 (up to 4 people total, with 3 total days in country), one for Tasks 3 – 6 (up to 5 people total, with 4 total days in country), and one for Tasks 7 – 11 (up to 3 people total, with 4 total days in country). Finally, Task 6 could require an additional trip (up to 2 people): "The Contractor shall assist the Client in conducting meetings with regulatory and government official to discuss recommended suggestions on pricing mechanisms and the importance of cost reflective rates, plus a return, to support private investment."

4. For Task 11, is the Consultant expected to conduct preliminary market sounding with prospective financing institutions or provide an assessment of likely financing options and suitability?

   Per the Terms of Reference, Task 11 should "The Contractor shall provide an analysis on the different types of financing (e.g., equity, debt) available for the Project. This includes assessing whether public and private financing organizations (e.g., Commercial Banks, the Asian Development Bank, multilateral development banks, the U.S. Export-Import Bank, and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation) are interested in providing financing for their implementation." The language specifies outreach to financing organizations and providing an assessment of likely financing options.

5. For Tasks 8, 9, and 11, can the Client confirm what financial and operational data will be made available for the economic analysis and financing assessments? Key pieces of data include historical fuel demand by product, fuel import volumes, storage utilization, operating costs, existing tariff/pricing calculations, and historical financial performance related to fuel operations.

   The Grantee (i.e. Pacific Energy SWP) will provide its historical fuel demand by product, fuel import volumes, storage utilization, operating costs, existing tariff/pricing calculations, and historical financial performance related to fuel operations.
   Further financial and operational data may be discussed and listed during kick off meeting.

6. For Task 14, is an in-person final presentation anticipated?

   No.

7. Experience and Qualifications: May we provide additional short project profiles beyond the six required with references that show our depth of projects in the region and fuel pier and infrastructure experience? These would be counted as part of our overall firm experience narrative asked for in this section and would be presented without the details needed for the six projects with references.

Additional information can be submitted. The Client will evaluate Offerors submissions individually based on the evaluation criteria noted in the solicitation.

8. Task 2 is primarily focused on the review of existing information and data. However, it also states that the Contractor shall "carry out any additional surveys that may be required" and, following its review of the collected data, identify and discuss with the Client any additional information required to complete the Activity. Could the Client please clarify whether the cost of any additional surveys or data collection is expected to be included within the Consultant's lump sum pricing? If so, given that the nature, scope, and extent of any additional data collection cannot be determined until the existing information has been reviewed under Task 2, we request that a Provisional Sum be established for such investigations. This would provide a consistent basis for tender pricing across bidders and ensure that costs associated with currently undefined survey requirements can be managed equitably

   The areas of potential additional surveys are:

1	Marine and mooring studies
2	Soil / seabed + bathymetric survey
3	Current study
4	Geotech survey (quay)
5	Topographic survey

   A sum of 120,000 USD (excluding taxes, accommodation or freight costs) will be set aside for these additional surveys.
   Such amount is expected to be included within the Consultant's lump sum pricing.

9. Are there any restrictions on teaming/subcontracting with other companies?

   No restrictions other than USTDA's nationality, source, and origin requirements. Any deviation from those would require a waiver.

10. Our team is globally situated, can TDA please clarify whether it is acceptable for a US-owned multi-national firm with offices overseas to include non-USC/LPR employees in its proposed staffing to enable us to draw on the expertise of our staff in other countries?

    USTDA's nationality, source, and origin requirements allow up to 30 percent of total grant funding to pay for host country nationals working on the project. Please see question 1 for additional information.

11. Is the past performance for commercial limited to US contracts, as we are a US-owned multi-national firm?

    It is not limited to U.S. contracts.

12. The RFP doesn't explicitly mention travel to Tonga. Travel would be required to evaluate and develop initial engineering plans. Are these costs reimbursed or included as part of the $1,420,872 grant?

    USTDA envisioned three trips for this activity. One for Tasks 1 & 2 (up to 4 people total, with 3 total days in country), one for Tasks 3 – 6 (up to 5 people total, with 4 total days in country), and one for Tasks 7 – 11 (up to 3 people total, with 4 total days in country). These costs will be reimbursed and included as part of the total grant amount.

13. If travel is authorized, are their restrictions, e.g. Fly America Act, number of travelers?

    USTDA envisioned three trips for this activity. One for Tasks 1 & 2 (up to 4 people total, with 3 total days in country), one for Tasks 3 – 6 (up to 5 people total, with 4 total days in country), and one for Tasks 7 – 11 (up to 3 people total, with 4 total days in country). All travel needs to be Fly America Act compliant.

14. Is the winning Offeror expected to be onsite for the entire feasibility study?

    No, see above.

15. Have any Target Countries been designated for this Activity? If not, would USTDA consider designating Australia or New Zealand, given the proposed construction and petroleum standards to be used, or Fiji, given its role as the transshipment point in Tonga's current fuel supply chain, so that subcontractors organized there may be engaged within the 30% allowance under Clause C(C)?

    USTDA's nationality, source, and origin requirements allow up to 30 percent of total grant funding to pay for host country nationals working on the project. Please see question 1 for additional information.

16. Is preference given to offerors who team with Tonga companies for evaluation purposes?

    The Client will evaluate Offeror's submissions based on the requirements outlined in the solicitation.

17. At what frequency is the port bathymetrically surveyed? When was the last survey?

    According to the Port Authorities, the NZ Navy realized a port bathymetrical survey in July 2026. The document is to be provided by the Port. The previous survey is dated 2020.

18. Page 11 of the RFP directs Offerors to provide CVs and letters of commitments respectively under the Organizational Structure, Management Plan, and Key Personnel and Experience and Qualifications sections of the Proposal. May Offerors provide CVs and letters of commitment in an annex to the Proposal?
    Yes.

19. Page 16 of the RFP notes that PESWP has a branch office in Tonga but that all senior staff for PESWP are based in Fiji. Please confirm if in-person meetings with PESWP are expected to take place in Tonga or in Fiji?
    All meetings are budgeted to take place in Tonga.

20. Page 34 of the RFP defines "Target Country" as a "country, other than the Host Country, (i) that is an integral part of the Project's scope and (ii) whose local labor is required for work to be performed in connection with the Activity. A Project may have one or more Target Countries." Can USTDA identify the applicable Target Countries for this project, or can the Offeror propose Target Countries in their bid?

    USTDA's nationality, source, and origin requirements allow up to 30 percent of total grant funding to pay for host country nationals working on the project. Please see question 1 for additional information.

21. Task 2 in Annex 1 of the Terms of Reference notes that "The Contractor shall engage with third party experts to carry out any additional surveys that may be required. These surveys could include marine and mooring studies, soil/seabed + bathymetric survey, current study, geotechnical surveys, and topographic surveys."
    a. Since the need and scope of these additional surveys is not yet known/defined, please confirm if it would be possible to add new third party experts/sub-contractors to the team during project implementation.
    b. Will additional funding be provided in case these additional surveys are required?

    This should be discussed with the Client during the kick-off meeting. The surveys listed were budgeted in the total grant amount. If additional surveys are ultimately needed, this would need to be discussed with USTDA and require approval to augment the Terms of Reference. Additional technical resources or funding would need to have a clear justification and receive approval by the Client and USTDA. Please see the response to question 8 above.

22. Under the firm capability and past performance evaluation criterion, will the Grantee evaluate the qualifications and past performance of the proposed team as a whole, including subcontractors, or will that criterion be evaluated on the prime contractor alone? Relatedly, may relevant project experience in fuel transport and storage infrastructure, and in fuel pricing regulatory advisory work, be demonstrated through the references and personnel of proposed subcontractors?

    The Client will evaluate Offeror's submissions based on the requirements outlined in the solicitation. This includes the entirety of the proposed Offeror's team, including subcontractors.

23. Section 4: AWARD CRITERIA; Evaluation Criterium 1.0: Firm Technical Capability and Past Performance; Is a firm allowed to submit project references belonging to a company of the same group along with a declaration of undertaking?

    This appears to be a conflict of interest if the past performance is coming from the same group.

24. Prior project-development participation and eligibility - Please identify any U.S. firm or firms, including the Definitional Mission contractor, that participated in development or refinement of the Project concept, Definitional Mission, Terms of Reference, or Reference Task Values. Please also confirm whether any such firms, their affiliates, or personnel are eligible to participate in this procurement as a prime contractor or subcontractor.
    They are not eligible to participate in this procurement. If you contact them, they will tell you the same thing.

25. Consideration of subcontractor past performance under Criterion 1 - Section 3.5 requires relevant experience and qualifications for both the Offeror and proposed subcontractors. Please confirm whether the relevant corporate experience and past performance of proposed U.S. subcontractors will be considered together with that of the prime Offeror in evaluating Criterion 1, "Firm Technical Capability and Past Performance," and whether the Grantee assigns any particular weighting to prime versus subcontractor experience.

    The Client will evaluate Offeror's submissions based on the requirements outlined in the solicitation. This includes the entirety of the proposed Offeror's team, including subcontractors.

26. Prior feasibility-study experience of the prime Offeror - Section 2.19 refers to prior delivery of "advisory, feasibility study and/or other services similar to those required in the TOR." Please confirm that a prime Offeror is not required itself to have previously completed a formal USTDA-funded feasibility study, provided that it demonstrates relevant advisory and similar project experience and proposes a team with the technical and substantive experience necessary to perform the TOR.
    Previously completing a USTDA-funded study is not required.

27. Key personnel supplied by U.S. subcontractors - Please confirm that key professionals, including a technical/engineering lead and discipline specialists, may be personnel of an eligible U.S. subcontractor, provided that the prime Offeror retains overall contractual responsibility and identifies the required Project Manager.

    This is correct.

28. Proposal submission deadline time zone - The RFP cover page states a submission deadline of 4:00 p.m. EDT on October 9, 2026, while Section 2.13 states 4:00 p.m. EST. Please confirm the applicable U.S. Eastern Time deadline.

    This should be EDT, daylight saving ends on November 1, 2026.