

**AMENDMENT #1: MOZAMBIQUE: MONTE MUAMBE RARE EARTHS MINING
PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY (USTDA ACTIVITY NO. 2026-11004A)**

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Please note that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Pre-Feasibility Study for the Monte Muambe Rare Earths Mining Project is amended, as follows:

Section 2.13: Proposal Submission Requirements

The new submission deadline for bids has been extended to 4:00PM Central African Time, 10:00AM Eastern Daylight Time, on May 11, 2026.

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.

RFP Questions and Answers
Mozambique: Monte Muambe Rare Earths Mining Project Pre-Feasibility Study
2026-11004A

1. What is the expected duration for completing the study? Are there suggested milestones for deliverables?
 - a. The duration will be negotiated by the grantee and contractor. Task reports are typically suggested milestones for deliverables, but the specifics of the milestones, deliverables and payment schedule, etc, will be negotiated between the grantee and the selected U.S. contractor as a part of the secondary agreement (contract). Bidders are expected to provide timelines estimates, and milestones suggestions.
2. Can milestone payments be invoiced as work is completed, or is the payment only at the end?
 - a. Yes, milestone payments can be invoiced as work is completed.
3. Is it acceptable for the prime contractor to subcontract all technical and engineering work, while the prime oversees the project?
 - a. No - this is primarily a technical assignment and bidders are expected to have at least some in-house capacity and experience.
4. Are there any restrictions on covering initial project costs (travel, local logistics) from the grant funds?
 - a. Subject to negotiation in the contract between the selected contractor and the grantee, there is an option for a mobilization payment. This amount may not exceed 10% of the total grant funds. See more information in our template secondary agreement (contract) on our website: <https://www.ustda.gov/ustda-document-center/>.
5. Is there a limit on the number of specialized subcontractors or team members, or can the prime assemble the optimal team?
 - a. There is no limit as long as they meet USTDA's Nationality Source and Origin requirements.
6. Please indicate whether the geological and metallurgical testing is expected to be conducted within Mozambique, or whether it may be carried out in a neighboring country (such as South Africa).
 - a. Some of the lab testing and metallurgy may be carried out in South Africa, with prior USTDA clearance and approval. Otherwise, per the U.S. nationality, source and origin (NSO) requirements, all goods and professional services funded by Grant Funds shall be sourced from the U.S.; however, up to 30% of the Grant Funds may be used to pay for work performed in connection with the Activity by any Subcontractor organized under the laws of Mozambique or any person that is either (1) a citizen of Mozambique or (2) lawfully authorized to work or reside in Mozambique.

7. Can laboratory testing and metallurgical characterization work be performed at internationally recognized facilities outside the United States and Mozambique (e.g., South Africa), provided the U.S. prime contractor retains full technical oversight and reporting responsibility? Please clarify how such arrangements are treated under the nationality requirements in Annex II.
 - a. Some of the lab testing and metallurgy may be carried out in South Africa, with prior USTDA clearance and approval. Otherwise, per the U.S. NSO requirements, all goods and professional services funded by Grant Funds shall be sourced from the U.S.; however, up to 30% of the Grant Funds may be used to pay for work performed in connection with the Activity by any Subcontractor organized under the laws of Mozambique or any person that is either (1) a citizen of Mozambique or (2) lawfully authorized to work or reside in Mozambique.
8. Our designated metallurgist SME would like to review the results of two metallurgical testing programs that were ongoing when the 2024 Technical Report was issued. These results would allow him to better assess the adequacy of the proposed metallurgical testwork budget.

Specifically, he is looking for:

1. A 70 kg representative ore sample is with Auralia Metallurgy in Perth, Australia.
 2. 100 kg ore sample has been received by SGS Lakefields in Canada. The sample at SGS Lakefields will first undergo extensive feed characterisation including electron microprobe analysis and TIMA-X analysis.
 - a. Detailed metallurgical reports will be made available to shortlisted bidders subject to entering into a non-disclosure agreement with the Grantee. However, the results of the testwork done by Auralia are reference in the publicly available Competent Person Report (<http://www.altonare.com>).
9. What is the variety of data types that will be given in the Initial Data Package? Will it include any of the following: existing geological, geophysical, geochemical, drilling, assay, metallurgical, process engineering, environmental, technical reports, and logistic information?
 - a. The Initial Data Package will contain all relevant information in particular with respect to metallurgy, mineralogy, geochemistry, engineering. Please refer to the October 2023 Competent Person Report (available on <http://www.altonare.com>) for further information on the project status. Additional information will be provided for the techno-economic modelling component of the study.
 10. The RFP references a 2-week kickoff and 6-week site visit, but is there a defined total period of performance for the program overall?
 - a. Bidders are expected to provide their own timeline estimates.
 11. Is a firm fixed price contract acceptable?
 - a. Please note that the USTDA grant is fixed price, as stated in the RFP.

12. For Annex I Task 2 – Drilling Plan: Please confirm whether the Client will provide the current resource model, prior drilling and assay databases, previous mineralogical and metallurgical testwork, site maps, permits, logistics information and any existing environmental or social baseline information.
 - a. Yes, confirmed.

13. For Annex I Task 2 – Drilling Plan: Please confirm whether the requirement for three diamond drill holes totalling 450 m is a fixed minimum scope requirement or an indicative basis that may be adjusted by mutual agreement if geology, sample recovery or representativity requires revision.
 - a. The total amount of the grant is fixed. Drilling requirements, as well as individual amounts for each task, are indicative and may be adjusted provided that the total amount must not exceed the grant amount. See also sections 5 and 17 of the Grant Agreement.

14. For RFP Section 2.3; Annex I Task 1: Please confirm whether the Client will provide the current resource model, prior drilling and assay databases, previous mineralogical and metallurgical testwork, site maps, permits, logistics information and any existing environmental or social baseline information.
 - a. Yes, confirmed.

15. For Annex I Task 2 – Drilling Plan: If the initial drilling programme does not yield sufficient representative material for the six composite samples and downstream testwork, may the Contractor recommend limited additional drilling, and would such change require prior written approval from both the Client and USTDA.
 - a. The total amount of the grant is fixed. Drilling requirements, as well as individual amounts for each task, are indicative and may be adjusted provided that the total amount must not exceed the grant amount. See also sections 5 and 17 of the Grant Agreement. The existing drilling database is sufficiently comprehensive to ensure the initial drilling programme intersects sufficient ore to generate metallurgical samples.

16. For Annex I Task 2 – Metallurgical Sampling Plan: Please confirm the target minimum sample mass required for each of the six composite samples, the required water sample volumes, and the minimum mass required for any retained reference samples, duplicates and umpire samples.
 - a. We expect bidders to indicate the minimum sample mass (and water volumes) they will require for assays and testing.

17. For Annex I Task 2; Task 4; Task 5: Please confirm whether assaying, mineralogical investigations and metallurgical testwork may be undertaken at specialist laboratories selected by the Contractor, and whether the Client or USTDA has any country, accreditation or pre-approval restrictions for such laboratories.
 - a. Beside the United States and the Host Country, some work lab and met work may be done in South Africa, subject to USTDA clearance and approval. Bidders are

expected to use laboratories which will be acceptable to a competent person using the data in a competent person under JORC.

18. For Annex I Task 5 – Stage 1 Process Tests: Please confirm the principal performance criteria expected for Stage 1 beneficiation, including any target concentrate grade, recovery, fluorite rejection, carbonate rejection or other product quality thresholds to be used for optimisation and reporting.
 - a. Target concentrate grade minimum 20% TREO (the higher the better).
Beneficiation recovery min 65% (the higher the better), fluorite rejection as high as possible.

19. For Annex I Task 6 – Updated CAPEX and OPEX: Confirm that the Task 6 engineering and cost update is intentionally limited to the flotation section, with upstream mining and downstream processing sections to remain based on prior estimates until the later integrated engineering stage.
 - a. Confirmed.

20. For Annex I Task 6 – Updated Financial Model: Confirm whether the long-term rare earth pricing assumptions, financing assumptions, depreciation and tax assumptions, and financial hurdle criteria are to be proposed by the Contractor for agreement, or whether the Client will issue a preferred financial assumption set.
 - a. To be proposed by Contractor.

21. For Annex I Task 7 – Stage 2 Process Tests: Confirm whether the required Stage 2 product objective is the production of a mixed rare earth carbonate only, or whether the recovery of a neodymium praseodymium oxide product is also a required deliverable rather than an optional investigatory test stream.
 - a. Mixed rare earth carbonate production is a required deliverable. Neodymium praseodymium oxide separation is an optional investigatory test stream.

22. For Annex I Task 7 – Stage 2 Process Tests: Please confirm that the Stage 2 hydrometallurgical programme is intended to remain at bench scale only, with no pilot-scale, locked-cycle or continuous operation testwork required under the present scope.
 - a. Confirmed - bench scale.

23. For Annex I Task 8 – Engineering Class 4 Study: Please confirm the scope boundary of the AACE Class IV engineering study, specifically whether it is limited to the beneficiation and hydrometallurgical processing facilities or whether it must also include mine-related infrastructure, residue storage, water supply, power, utilities, roads and other supporting infrastructure.
 - a. Beneficiation and hydrometallurgical plants only.

24. For Annex I Task 8 – Alternative Process Configurations: Please confirm the expected maturity level of the preliminary P&IDs, plot plans and equipment sizing for the three alternative process configurations, so that the proposal can align effort appropriately with the intended Class IV study level.

- a. As written in the Terms of Reference (TOR) - Preliminary P&IDs, Indicative plot plans. Sizing must be sufficiently mature to sustain capex estimates.
25. For Annex I Task 9 – CAPEX and OPEX: Please confirm whether the Client has any preferred basis for Mozambique adjustment factors, local labour and construction cost assumptions, and owner’s costs, or whether the Contractor is expected to develop these independently from market data and client consultation.
 - a. To be proposed/developed by Contractor.
26. For Annex I Task 10 – Preliminary ESIA: Please confirm whether the preliminary ESIA scope is limited to document review, site reconnaissance, preliminary stakeholder consultation and impact framing, or whether any new specialist baseline field surveys are expected within the current study budget.
 - a. Confirmed. No specialist baseline field surveys expected.
27. For Annex I Task 10 – Preliminary ESIA: Please confirm whether the preliminary ESIA is to cover only the process plant study footprint or the broader integrated project footprint, including mine area, access infrastructure, water-related infrastructure, residue storage areas and associated communities.
 - a. Confirmed. Process plant only.
28. For Annex I Task 3 – Engage with Potential U.S. Offtakers: Please confirm whether engagement with up to twelve potential U.S. offtakers is a mandatory minimum expectation under the scope, and whether the Client will provide an initial target list, existing introductions or product positioning material to support this workstream.
 - a. Bidder expected to take the lead on this task but Client will share available information / existing engagements.
29. For Annex I Task 11 – U.S. Sources of Supply: Please clarify the minimum expected depth of the U.S. Sources of Supply review, including whether the deliverable should be limited to a market scan and supplier list or should extend to budget quotations, technical screening and comparative evaluation of candidate suppliers.
 - a. Please review the language in Task 11. There is no mention of budget quotation, technical screening, or comparative evaluation, although the list should contain context and general information outlined in the TOR language.
30. For Annex I Task 12 – Development Impact Assessment: Please confirm whether the Client or USTDA has a preferred development impact methodology and preferred outcome indicators, or whether the Contractor may propose these for agreement during execution.
 - a. Yes, these will be provided to the selected U.S. Contractor.
31. For RFP Section 2.11; Annex II Clause C: Please confirm that the study may be delivered under a U.S.-qualified prime contractor structure, with defined specialist work packages undertaken by approved subcontractors in Mozambique and, where permitted under the

USTDA nationality provisions, in other jurisdictions integral to the Project scope, subject to the required approvals.

- a. Confirmed.
32. For Annex II Clause C(A) to C(C) and Clause C(F): Please confirm the process and criteria by which a country other than Mozambique may be recognised as a Target Country for this Activity under the USTDA nationality provisions, and whether such recognition must be established at proposal stage or may be addressed during contract negotiation.
- a. The bidder is welcome to suggest a separate third country where work may take place in the proposal and an exception may be allowed, subject to USTDA clearance and approval, prior to contract execution. Please also see responses to questions 6, 7 and 17 above.
33. For RFP Section 2.11; Annex II Clause C(C): Please confirm whether the 30 percent allowance for Host Country and Target Country participation applies to the total grant-funded value inclusive of all local field services, local personnel, local logistics and local laboratory support, or whether some support items fall outside this cap.
- a. The 30 percent allowance applies to 30 percent of the overall grant. Please also note Clause D.
34. For RFP Section 2.21 and 2.23; Annex II Clause C and D: Please confirm whether third-party drilling, earthmoving, logistics, assay laboratory services and metallurgical laboratory services may be subcontracted where technically justified, and please clarify the extent to which such services must comply with the USTDA nationality, source and origin requirements when performed outside Mozambique.
- a. All services must comply with USTDA's requirements, and any exceptions would be subject to USTDA clearance and approval in the case of working being carried out in or by service providers who are from, for example, South Africa. See other responses above.
35. For Annex II Clause D and Clause E: Please confirm the extent to which U.S. nationality, source and origin requirements apply to laboratory consumables, reagents, spare parts, courier services and other goods or services incidental to metallurgical testing and sample shipment.
- a. U.S. NSO requirements apply to goods **purchased** for the performance of the Activity and associated delivery. If a testing lab is using its own equipment that's already been purchased, which could be the case, then there's no NSO consideration. Otherwise, any exceptions or waivers would be subject to USTDA clearance and approval.
36. For RFP Section 2.21; Grant Agreement Article 5(C) and 5(D): Please confirm whether all proposed subcontractors must be named in the proposal at tender stage, and whether any later addition, substitution or material change to subcontractors would require prior written approval by the Client and USTDA.

- a. Key subcontractors must be named in the proposal at the tender stage. Any later changes, additions or substitutions during the course of the Study may take place and would require prior written approval by the Client and USTDA.
37. For RFP Section 2.24 – Invoicing and Payment: Please confirm whether all grant disbursements will be made only to the selected U.S. prime contractor in the United States, with all subcontractor settlements remaining the sole responsibility of the prime contractor.
- a. Confirmed.
38. For RFP Section 1.4; Appendix 4 – Reference Task Values: Please confirm whether the Reference Task Values are indicative for contract administration purposes only and may be materially rebalanced by the Contractor across tasks, provided the total grant amount is not exceeded and the full TOR remains satisfied.
- a. Confirmed.
39. For Annex II Clause E – U.S. Carriers: Please confirm the practical application of the U.S. carrier requirement to all grant-funded international travel, including travel by approved non-U.S. personnel and travel sectors into Mozambique where carrier availability may be limited.
- a. Please review the RFP and the terms of the grant agreement, specifically the phrase, "...to the extent service by such carriers is available..."
40. For Annex II Clause S – Reporting Requirements: Please confirm whether the requirement to advise USTDA annually for two years after completion of the Activity forms part of the fixed grant-funded scope and should therefore be included in the Contractor's proposed resourcing and commercial planning.
- a. This reporting requirement does not represent a significant level of effort but is either a short phone call or a response to an email inquiry by USTDA external evaluators. This should not be included in the Contractor's proposed resourcing and commercial planning.
41. For RFP Section 3.3 and 3.4: Please confirm the level of detail expected in the proposal-stage workforce schedule and level of effort submission, including whether a task-linked manday schedule by role is sufficient or whether named monthly utilisation and subcontract package breakdowns are also expected.
- a. Task-linked manday schedule per role is sufficient.
42. For Annex I Task 1 – Initial Data Package: Please confirm the expected timeframe for closure of information gaps identified after review of the Initial Data Package, and whether the Client has nominated internal owners for geology, environmental, permitting and commercial data streams.
- a. As indicated in the TOR, to be mutually agreed. However, either the information is available or it is not. Therefore, any info gaps that can be closed would be closed within 5 working days. The Client's team is small. No specific nominations

have been made, but points of contact and responsibilities will be defined in the context of Task 1.

43. For Annex I Task 1 and Task 13: Please confirm the expected review turnaround periods for draft deliverables, including the Work Plan, Testing Plan, workshop outputs, draft final report and final report revisions, so that a realistic integrated programme can be established.
 - a. 14 days (as indicated).
44. For Annex I Task 2 – Testing Plan Workshop: Please confirm whether the two-day Testing Plan workshop is required to be held physically in Mozambique, or whether it may be held virtually or at another mutually agreed location if this improves programme efficiency and specialist participation.
 - a. May be held virtually or hybrid.
45. For Annex I Task 8 – Process Configuration Workshop: The TOR states that the two-day Process Configuration Workshop is to be held in Mozambique. Please confirm whether the Client would nevertheless consider a hybrid format, or an alternative mutually agreed arrangement, provided the workshop objectives, participation and outputs are fully achieved.
 - a. May be held virtually or hybrid.
46. For Annex I Task 2 – Client Responsibilities: Please confirm the extent of Client support for visas, sample export permits, customs clearances, site access permissions, local stakeholder introductions, security arrangements and other administrative actions required to execute the field programme, including indicative lead times.
 - a. Visas: Client will provide invitation letters for business visas. Export permits: client will handle the process and costs - timeline is difficult to predict, may be as low as 1 week and as high as 1 month to the moment the samples leave the country. Also depends of destination and means of transport. Local stakeholders introductions - Client's project manager will accompany Contractor's team while in field and will organise meetings as necessary. Security arrangements - there is a security team on site. No other security arrangements required in Maputo or in Tete.
47. For RFP Section 2.23; Grant Agreement Article 2 and Article 5(C)(2): Please confirm the formal approval pathway and indicative turnaround for any proposed amendment or deviation to the Terms of Reference that maybe identified during execution, including whether such submissions must first be agreed with the Client before being referred to USTDA.
 - a. Any changes to the TOR or grant agreement would be subject to USTDA approval and approval by USTDA's Office of General Counsel. It's not possible to provide a timeline as the changes are wholly dependent on the substance of the change. The changes should be agreed by the Client and selected Contractor prior to being submitted to USTDA.