



UPU | UNIVERSAL
POSTAL
UNION

Call for tenders

Phase I

Study on the percentages of goods and documents carried within the Parcel-post, EMS and E-format mail streams

7 April 2022

Table of contents		Page
1	Introduction	3
1.1	Profile of the UPU	3
2	Terms and conditions	3
2.1	Confidentiality	3
2.2	Legal status of the Vendor	4
2.3	Scope of the call for tenders	4
2.4	Background	4
2.5	Objectives	5
2.6	Use of subcontractors	5
2.7	Use of the emblem, name and initials of the UPU	5
2.8	Collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices and any other similar conduct	5
2.9	Intellectual property	6
2.10	Privileges and immunities	6
2.11	Tax exemption	6
2.12	Language	6
2.13	Signature	7
2.14	Participation notification	7
2.15	Contact persons	7
2.16	Further inquiries and questions	7
2.17	Delivery of tenders and deadline	7
2.18	Evaluation procedure	7
2.19	Modification, suspension or cancellation of the call for tenders	8
2.20	Tentative schedule	8
3	Tender structure – Response format	8
3.1	Cover letter	9
3.2	Executive summary	9
3.3	Bidder information	9
3.4	Subcontractor information	9
3.5	Technical proposal	9
3.6	Financial proposal	9
3.7	Delivery and payment schedule	10
3.8	UPU General Terms and Conditions	10
4	Service requirements	10
4.1	Description of the services and activities	10
4.2	Expected deliverables	10
4.3	Bidder requirements	11
4.4	Assessment criteria	11
4.5	Estimated duration of the services	12
4.6	Location of the services	12
4.7	Reporting	12
4.8	Other requirements	12
4.9	Additional information	13

1 Introduction

1.1 Profile of the UPU

The Universal Postal Union (UPU) was founded in 1874 in Berne, Switzerland, with the main goals of establishing a single postal territory for the reciprocal exchange of letter-post items and adopting common principles for the international postal service in a non-discriminatory manner. Currently comprising 192 member countries, the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1948.

The main mission of the UPU is to stimulate the lasting development of efficient and accessible universal postal services of quality, in order to facilitate communication between the inhabitants of the world. It does this by guaranteeing the free circulation of items over a single postal territory composed of interconnected networks, encouraging the adoption of fair common standards and the use of technology, ensuring cooperation and interaction among stakeholders, promoting effective technical cooperation, and ensuring the satisfaction of customers' changing needs. The UPU is thus expected to play a major role in the continued revitalization of postal services.

Furthermore, the UPU facilitates the development of worldwide postal services by providing an information and communication technology framework that allows the designated operators¹ of UPU member countries to concentrate on the delivery of postal services to their customers. In this context, the UPU provides a global network with value-added services, as well as computerized applications for the management of international mail and international postal money orders.

2 Terms and conditions

Unless otherwise indicated in this call for tenders, the term "Bidder" shall refer to any person, company or legal entity submitting a proposal in response to this call for tenders. The term "Vendor" shall refer to any selected bidder.

2.1 Confidentiality

Bidders shall treat in strict confidence all information contained in this call for tenders and its attached documents that is not already publicly known or generally accessible, particularly any documentation marked as confidential and distributed by the UPU to Bidders as additional confidential tender documentation. Bidders shall prevent the disclosure or distribution of all such information to third parties and other entities and persons not expressly authorized herein. In case of doubt, these confidentiality provisions shall nevertheless be observed. All Bidders are obliged to observe these confidentiality provisions before, during and after the tender process. These provisions shall not affect the legal obligations of the UPU and Bidders to disclose information.

Bidders shall not use such information for any purposes other than those associated with this call for tenders. The call for tenders and all attached documents may be distributed or made available only to persons directly involved in the tender process on behalf of Bidders. If external agents or subcontractors are involved in the preparation of the tender documents, this must be indicated and their names provided in the participation notification (see section 2.14).

Bidders shall assume full responsibility for the compliance of their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors, as well as any third parties involved on their behalf in this tender process, with these rules of confidentiality, and shall be liable for any damages resulting from misconduct or unauthorized disclosure.

If a Bidder violates the confidentiality provisions contained herein, it shall be liable to pay a penalty to the UPU unless it can prove that no fault is attributable to it. This penalty shall not exceed 50,000 CHF per infringement. Payment of any such penalties shall not release Bidders from their obligation to observe these confidentiality requirements.

¹ In accordance with article 1bis.1.7 of the UPU Constitution, a designated operator is any governmental or non-governmental entity officially designated by the member country to operate postal services and to fulfil the related obligations arising out of the Acts of the Union on its territory.

Bidders wishing to submit a proposal in response to this call for tenders must contact the person(s) specified in section 2.15 below and may, if necessary, request additional information from the UPU in relation to this call for tenders.

Without prejudice to the confidentiality provisions set out above, Bidders agree that the receipt of any such information may be subject to the prior signature of a non-disclosure agreement between the Bidder and the UPU, under conditions to be determined and communicated by the latter.

2.2 Legal status of the Vendor

The Vendor shall be regarded as having, in law, the legal status of independent contractor. The Vendor and its agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors (as authorized by the UPU) shall in no way be regarded as employees of the UPU. Such agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors of the Vendor shall not be entitled to any employment benefits from the UPU. The Vendor alone shall be responsible for due payment of all compensation owed to such agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors, including payment of any employment taxes, benefits, compensation and insurance. The Vendor shall represent and warrant that it will comply with all laws, rules and regulations required by the relevant authorities, including the appropriate withholding, reporting and payment of all necessary taxes.

The Vendor shall be liable for all work performed, including any acts or omissions, by its agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors.

2.3 Scope of the call for tenders

This call for tenders, which relates to phase I of a two-phase project, concerns the provision of specialized services with a view to assisting the UPU in researching and determining e-commerce market trends and the percentages of goods and documents carried within the parcel post, EMS and E format mail streams.

2.4 Background

The 26th UPU Congress, held in Istanbul in 2016, approved a two-step Integrated Product Plan that introduced a documents and goods classification as of 1 January 2018. As a result, the letter-post P and G formats and bulky letters (E format) are now restricted to documents, while small packets (letter-post E format) can contain goods only and must have an S10 barcode identifier. The classification and definition of postal items by content was driven by the need to position the postal service in the growing e-commerce segment and to facilitate alignment with emerging supply chain requirements (aviation, security, customs, etc.) mandating the application of a unique S10 identifier and the provision of electronic advance data (EAD) for all items containing goods (including ITMATT and PREDES in accordance with standards M33 and M41).

Despite the classification of postal items into goods and documents, some postal operators have trouble distinguishing mail subclass identifiers, making it difficult to properly differentiate and process the postal items into their correct streams and to gather statistics on the respective volumes of goods and documents carried within the parcel post, EMS and E format mail streams. The provisions relating to EAD, ITMATT, PREDES, EMSEVT v3 and the CN 22/CN 23 forms, for instance, are not applied in the same manner by all postal operators to all postal items containing goods, thereby exposing the global postal network to supply chain vulnerabilities and putting the security and reliability of the network at risk.

Letter post containing goods consists of small packets (by contrast, P and G format letter post, and E format bulky letters, do not contain goods). In addition, EMS and parcel post often, but not always, contain goods. Items not containing goods are not required to be accompanied by EAD, yet these items populate designated operators' product streams. Moreover, although small packets (i.e. lightweight postal items containing goods, weighing up to 2 kg (E format)) currently represent the bulk of cross-border e-commerce and constitute the growth segment for international postal traffic, they remain in the letter post mail stream, which is not subject to the same operational, accounting, IT and remuneration requirements as the parcel post and EMS streams. For example, the S10 barcode applied to small packets is used only for internal operational processing and not for item tracking.

In view of the above, a statistically valid study is to be conducted with the aim of supporting and facilitating the development of strategies and action plans to improve the quality of service, operational efficiency and sustainability of the postal network through well differentiated mail streams for documents and goods. The research will measure the flows of documents vs. goods in all three streams (i.e. E format letter post, EMS and parcel post) as dispatched to the United States of America; produce statistically valid results that can be used to adjust the number of items used in calculations of EAD performance (total number of items accompanied by EAD over the total number of items received); and identify the percentages of items that contain documents vs. goods.

2.5 Objectives

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- determine the relative volumes of goods and documents flowing in the parcel post, EMS and E-format (to include both small packets and bulky letters) mail streams, as dispatched to several countries, including the United States, and share the aggregated results more widely;
- critically assess the current operational practices of postal operators in processing postal items in the parcel post, EMS and E-format mail streams;
- establish existing operational challenges facing postal operators in processing postal items in the aforementioned mail streams with reference to UPU standards and regulatory requirements for EAD, ITMATT, PRESDES, EMSEVT version 3, and the application of CN22/CN23 and the S10 barcode;
- produce statistically valid results that can be used to adjust the number of items used in calculations of EAD performance (total number of items accompanied by EAD over the total number of items received), so that items containing documents and not goods do not factor in the numerator or denominator of the fraction used to calculate the percentage of items in a particular flow that achieve compliance with EAD requirements;
- make recommendations (strategic, commercial, operational, IT, and regulatory) as to whether there are easy, low cost solutions for identifying items containing documents in mixed flows, for the improvement of the operational efficiency and processing of parcel post, EMS and E-format items.

2.6 Use of subcontractors

The Vendor shall not assign, sublicense, subcontract, pledge or otherwise transfer or dispose of its tender, or any of the rights and obligations contained therein or in an associated contract with the UPU, without the prior written consent of the UPU.

The approval by the UPU of the engagement of any subcontractor shall not relieve the Vendor of any of its obligations or responsibilities concerning the work performed by such subcontractors.

2.7 Use of the emblem, name and initials of the UPU

Bidders shall not advertise or otherwise make public the fact that they intend to provide, are providing or have provided services to the UPU, or use the emblem, name or initials of the UPU in connection with their business for purposes of commercial advantage or goodwill, without prior and explicit permission from the UPU. Bidders shall take all reasonable measures to ensure compliance with this provision by their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors.

2.8 Collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices and any other similar conduct

Without prejudice to the provisions in sections 3 and 4 below, Bidders (including their agents, consultants, employees and subcontractors) shall not engage in any collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices or any other similar conduct in relation to:

- the preparation and submission of tenders;
- the clarification of tenders;
- the conduct and content of any negotiations, including final contract negotiations.

For the purposes of this call for tenders, collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices and any other similar conduct may include the disclosure to, or exchange or clarification with, any other Bidder of information (in any form), whether or not such information is confidential to the UPU or to any other Bidder, in order to alter the results of the call for tenders in such a way that would lead to an outcome other than that which would have been obtained through a competitive process. In addition to any other remedies available to it, the UPU may, at its sole discretion, immediately reject any tender submitted by a Bidder that, in the UPU's opinion, has engaged in any collusive bidding, anti-competitive practices or any other similar conduct with any other Bidder in relation to the preparation or submission of tenders, whether with respect to this call for tenders or other procurement processes conducted by the UPU.

2.9 Intellectual property

This call for tenders and all its attached documents, including any content, forms, statements, concepts, projects and procedures explicitly or implicitly forming part of the call for tenders, constitute the exclusive intellectual property of the UPU. This call for tenders is communicated to the various Bidders with the sole purpose of assisting them in the preparation of their respective tenders. Any hard copies of this call for tenders shall be destroyed or returned to the UPU by unsuccessful Bidders at the request of the UPU.

2.10 Privileges and immunities

Nothing in or relating to this call for tenders, the activities described herein or any potential agreements related thereto shall be deemed as a waiver, expressed or implied, of any of the privileges, immunities and facilities that the UPU enjoys as a specialized agency of the United Nations system, pursuant to the Swiss Host State Act and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations (on Swiss territory), the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (outside Switzerland), and any other conventions and laws recognizing and/or granting such privileges, immunities and facilities to the UPU and its officials (such as the International Organizations Immunities Act in the case of the United States of America).

Accordingly, the Vendor shall expressly acknowledge and agree that the property and assets of the UPU, including any archives, data, documents and funds belonging to the UPU or held by it (including, without limitation, the data/hosting environments and servers pertaining to or associated with the provision of the services, as well as any data or documents in any form belonging to or held by the UPU on behalf of UPU member countries and their designated operators), are inviolable and shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether through executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action. The Vendor shall immediately contact the UPU in the event of any attempt to violate or any violation of the UPU's privileges and immunities, and shall take all reasonable measures to prevent such violations.

In the light of the UPU's status as a specialized agency of the United Nations (and without prejudice to the observance, by the UPU, of any sanctions established by the United Nations Security Council), Bidders shall expressly certify their legal and operational willingness and ability to provide the services on a non-discriminatory basis for the benefit of all eligible entities established and/or situated in the territory of any UPU member country, irrespective of the existence of diplomatic relations between a Bidder's country of incorporation and/or operation and any UPU member country (including its designated operators).

2.11 Tax exemption

Pursuant to article III, section 9, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies, the UPU is exempt from all direct taxes and from customs restrictions, duties and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use.

Furthermore, as an intergovernmental organization and a specialized agency of the United Nations, the UPU is exempt from value-added tax (VAT) in Switzerland (OLTVA, article 22; *Instructions 2001 sur la TVA*, articles 574, 816 and others), as well as in other countries. Therefore, all prices shall be indicated in "net" form, without VAT or similar taxes.

2.12 Language

Bidders must submit all tender documents entirely in English.

2.13 Signature

Tender documents shall be signed by a representative (or representatives) duly designated and authorized to act on the Bidder's behalf and with the authority to legally bind the Bidder and accept the terms and conditions of this call for tenders.

2.14 Participation notification

Upon receipt of this call for tenders, Bidders shall send confirmation of participation to the contact person(s) listed in section 2.15, in line with the deadline indicated in section 2.20.

2.15 Contact persons

Secretary of the Tenders and Procurements Committee
Universal Postal Union
International Bureau
Weltpoststrasse 4
3015 BERNE
SWITZERLAND

E-mail: caa@upu.int

2.16 Further inquiries and questions

Bidders must send any questions regarding the content of this call for tenders or any requests for clarification in writing to the contact person(s) listed in section 2.15 **by 21 April 2022**.

Answers to questions submitted by Bidders, as well as any additional information and updates relevant to this call for tenders, shall be published on the UPU website at www.upu.int/en/Universal-Postal-Union/Procurement.

2.17 Delivery of tenders and deadline

In view of the current situation relating to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all tenders must, on an exceptional basis, be submitted to the UPU by e-mail only at RFP-2022-003@upu.int with "RFP-2022-003 – Goods vs. Documents study" as the subject line.

The deadline for the submission of tenders is **4 May 2022 at 16.00 CEST**.

The UPU shall not take into consideration any tenders received after this date and time. Furthermore, it shall not accept any tenders sent to any e-mail address other than that specified above or sent by any other means.

There shall be no charge to the UPU for the preparation and submission of tender documents by Bidders.

2.18 Evaluation procedure

The objective of the UPU's evaluation process is to ensure the selection of a qualified, reliable and experienced Vendor capable of providing the specialized services and fulfilling the objectives set out in this call for tenders.

The UPU shall conduct its evaluation procedure with a view to determining as objectively as possible the tender that best meets its specific requirements. All tenders submitted shall be subject to an in-depth assessment, at the UPU's sole discretion, in order to enable the UPU to engage the most appropriate service provider. Due consideration will be given to Bidders' specific backgrounds, qualifications and experience in relation to the required services.

The prescribed structure of tenders, as set out in section 3, is mandatory for all Bidders. The UPU shall not take into consideration any tenders that do not fulfil the mandatory criteria.

Tenders received by the UPU must address all aspects of this call for tenders, and Bidders must identify any aspects where they envisage modifications being necessary or consider elements to be missing.

Tenders shall be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria, in descending order of importance:

- Quality of the tender (according to the specifications herein);
- Knowledge and experience of the Bidder and its team and/or consultant(s), as applicable to the subject matter;
- Price.

The winning tender will be selected on the basis of a non-exhaustive list of criteria as set out in section 4.4. Bidders are therefore required to consider how their tender corresponds with the criteria listed and clearly indicate this in their response document.

The deliberations of the UPU Tenders and Procurements Committee (TPC) are strictly confidential. The TPC shall submit a report on its evaluation of the tenders received to the Director General of the UPU International Bureau, together with its final recommendation, for his assessment and authorization.

The UPU is not bound to accept the lowest tender and reserves the right to accept all or part of a tender. In awarding the contract, account will be taken of both the overall costs of the work and of the nature and quality of the services to be provided. The UPU reserves the right to negotiate prices and terms and conditions of contract after receipt of tenders.

Bidders will be informed of the outcome of their tenders as soon as possible after the UPU has made its final selection.

2.19 Modification, suspension or cancellation of the call for tenders

The UPU reserves the right, at its sole discretion and at any time before the conclusion of the tender process (i.e. at any time prior to the signature of the relevant contract with the Vendor), to modify, suspend or cancel all or part of this call for tenders.

2.20 Tentative schedule

Publication of call for tenders	7 April 2022
Deadline for submission of participation notification	19 April 2022
Deadline for submission of queries	21 April 2022
Deadline for provision of responses to queries	25 April 2022
Deadline for submission of tenders to the UPU	4 May 2022 at 16.00 CEST
Estimated start of engagement	1 June 2022

3 Tender structure – Response format

All information provided by Bidders must be fully compliant with the terms and conditions set out in section 2 above, as well as the provisions of this section and the service requirements listed in section 4 below.

Moreover, the requirements stipulated in this call for tenders must be met in their entirety, according to the structure defined below and following the sequence and numbering provided in this section. The UPU shall evaluate all Bidder responses in accordance with the structure defined herein and shall have the right to reject any tenders that do not fulfil the requirements of this call for tenders.

For each of the requirements listed in this call for tenders, Bidders shall answer with one of the following statements:

- Covered;
- Covered with limitations (explaining relevant limitations);
- Not covered.

Where the answer is “covered” or “covered with limitations”, Bidders shall provide further details and/or examples of existing implementations of their solution in the field (existing use cases).

3.1 *Cover letter*

Bidders shall submit a cover letter including:

- A statement that the Bidder has read, understands and accepts all provisions of this call for tenders;
- The Bidder’s name, telephone number, postal address and e-mail address, and the name(s) of its representative(s);
- A statement that the Bidder’s tender documents are valid for a minimum period of 120 days.

The cover letter shall be signed by a representative (or representatives) duly designated and authorized to act on the Bidder’s behalf and with the authority to legally bind the Bidder and accept the terms and conditions of this call for tenders, and shall also include a confirmation of such authorization by the Bidder.

3.2 *Executive summary*

Bidders shall provide an executive summary highlighting the most important aspects of their tenders.

3.3 *Bidder information*

Bidders must provide the following information:

- Company structure, locations/subsidiaries;
- Financial data (turnover, profit, etc.);
- Partners and equity holders of the company;
- Company history;
- Market position and share in relevant markets.

3.4 *Subcontractor information*

Bidders shall provide a list of any subcontractors to be directly involved in this call for tenders and must specify the exact degree of these subcontractors’ involvement in the provision of the services.

3.5 *Technical proposal*

Bidders shall submit a technical proposal addressing all of the requirements set out in section 4. This proposal should outline the methodology, processes and timelines, as appropriate, that Bidders intend to implement in order to fulfil the objectives of this call for tenders.

The assessment criteria applicable to the technical proposal are outlined in section 4.4.

3.6 *Financial proposal*

Bidders shall provide a financial proposal setting out their pricing structure, as follows:

- Daily and annual rate per consultant;
- Full-service quotation (all inclusive);
- Detailed description of pricing structure and services offered.

In the event of the sudden departure of an individual consultant, the Vendor shall provide 10 extra consulting days by the replacement consultant at no additional charge. Bidders shall not include VAT in their pricing structure, as per section 2.11. Furthermore, all pricing information shall be provided exclusively in Swiss Francs (CHF).

The assessment criteria applicable to the financial proposal are outlined in section 4.4.

3.7 *Delivery and payment schedule*

The delivery and payment schedules are to be proposed by Bidders in their pricing structures, and must be agreed with the UPU.

The services provided by the Vendor shall be invoiced in arrears on a monthly basis. The UPU will make payment within 30 business days of receipt of invoice, subject to its acceptance of the services provided and the Vendor's transmission to the UPU of any and all documentation clearly detailing the services to which the invoice pertains (in a format to be established by the UPU).

3.8 *UPU General Terms and Conditions*

Bidders shall include in their tenders a statement of acceptance of the UPU General Terms and Conditions for the Provision of Services, attached hereto for reference.

The final terms of any contract arising from this call for tenders shall be defined by the UPU and accepted by the Vendor. Contract negotiations shall commence only after the final selection of a Vendor by the UPU.

4 Service requirements

4.1 *Description of the services and activities*

The Vendor shall deliver the following services and activities:

- design and develop an appropriate research methodology, means of qualitative and quantitative data collection (covering both primary and secondary sources), and data analysis instruments;
- determine population and sample of the research, which should include postal operators in all the UPU regions, and to the extent possible, their respective business and individual customers, dispatching parcel post, EMS and letter post E-format items to the United States;
- develop appropriate research questions in order to address the fundamental problem in question and to realize the objectives of the study;
- conduct real time observations and 'live examination' of mail pieces in postal facilities (Offices of Exchange, sorting centres, etc), based on size, form, shape, touch and feel, to determine whether the mail items may be containing goods or documents, without opening the mail items, taking pictures or videos of individual or private information contained in the mail piece labels that may infringe on the right to privacy;
- develop the appropriate tools and instruments (research questions, interviews, observations, surveys, focus groups, etc) in order to comprehensively answer the fundamental problem being addressed and to realize the objectives of the study;
- critically analyse the primary and secondary data, performing the necessary data manipulations and transformations, and stating the reasons for any given manipulation or transformation of data;
- interpret the findings and results, suggesting the best strategies in the light of the recommendations, to improve the operations processing of postal items in the aforementioned mail streams with reference to UPU standards and regulatory requirements for EAD, ITMATT, PREDES, EMSEVT version 3, and the application of CN22/CN23 and the S10 barcode;
- draw the appropriate conclusions and make recommendations (strategic, commercial, operational, IT, and regulatory), based on the findings and results of the study, in relation to the research objectives and research questions;
- prepare and make a presentation of the final report, highlighting the key findings and results, implications, biases and limitations of the research, and suggesting potential future areas of research.

4.2 *Expected deliverables*

The Vendor's deliverables will include:

- A detailed description of the final report's structure, suggested research methodologies, population and sample, research questions, subsequent analyses and model specifications with key assumptions and limitations, to be submitted no later than three weeks after the commencement of the assignment.;
- An initial interim report, containing an interpretation of the preliminary results of the estimations carried out and comprising a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data gathered and the gaps still to be completed, to be submitted no later than 15 weeks after the commencement of the assignment;
- A second interim report, analyzing all of the points specified in the “Objectives” section above, comprising a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the data gathered and the gaps still to be completed, to be submitted no later than 18 weeks after the commencement of the assignment;
- A final comprehensive report, containing a detailed analysis of all the elements specified in the “Objectives” section above, and all revisions and amendments agreed with the UPU at meetings to review the two interim reports, to be submitted no later than 22 weeks after the commencement of the assignment;
- A presentation accompanying the final report, highlighting the key findings and results of the study, in PowerPoint format.

The above-mentioned deliverables shall include the following information and materials, as applicable:

- An electronic version of the report with its annexes;
- An electronic database concerning all of the statistics/data collected from all sources during the research and analysis;
- A complete list of research materials used (detailed bibliography);
- Electronic copies of the sources;
- A presentation of the final report, in PowerPoint format.

4.3 Bidder requirements

Bidders shall be companies of international repute in the areas of activity defined herein.

Moreover, Bidders are expected to demonstrate:

- Proven experience of working in the postal sector;
- Proven experience in the successful delivery of impact-driven, large-scale postal research projects in English;
- In-depth knowledge of the supply chain and operation of international postal services relating to parcel post, EMS and letter-post E format items;
- In-depth knowledge of the regulations governing international postal services regarding the goods and documents classification in relation to parcel post, EMS and letter-post E format items;
- The ability to collect and analyze vast amounts of data and to draw value-adding inferences;
- Sufficient and qualified human resource capacity and capability to deliver the services and activities described herein;
- Experience of working with United Nations entities, including the UPU and/or other intergovernmental organizations.

Bidders should propose at least three individual consultants in accordance with the requirements specified in this call for tenders. Bidders are required to provide the CVs and diplomas of the said consultants. The UPU shall have the right to reject a proposed consultant if the individual does not fulfil the UPU's requirements as defined in this call for tenders.

4.4 Assessment criteria

Bidders' tenders will be assessed based on a scoring system of up to 70 points for the technical proposal (criteria 1 to 4) and 30 points for the financial proposal (criterion 5), as follows:

<i>Evaluation criteria</i>		<i>Points obtainable</i>
1	Capacity and capability of consultant(s) (i.e. experience, qualifications)	15
2	Company profile and experience in developing and delivering similar large-scale postal research projects	15
3	Knowledge of the supply chain and operation of international postal services relating to parcel post, EMS and letter-post E format items	20
4	Knowledge of the regulations governing international postal services regarding the goods and documents classification in relation to parcel post, EMS and letter-post E format items;	20
5	Financial proposal, including a pricing structure commensurate with duties	30

Bidders shall provide evidence of their ability to meet these requirements by means of a list of references.

4.5 Estimated duration of the services

The services are expected to commence in 1 June 2022, with an estimated duration of five months.

4.6 Location of the services

The Vendor or its assigned consultant shall in principle work from their own office or home-office and conduct technical missions, as approved by the UPU, at the operational sites of the sample population of the study. The Vendor or its assigned consultant shall coordinate and work closely with the UPU (as instructed by the latter) and may be required from time to time to carry out certain tasks from the headquarters of the UPU in Berne, Switzerland, and any other locations as may be determined from time to time by the UPU.

4.7 Reporting

The Vendor shall provide the UPU with reports every three weeks, setting out the relevant services performed by the Vendor during that time frame. Such reports shall be prepared in accordance with a structure and format defined by the UPU (in the form of time sheets).

The UPU may contest the Vendor's time sheets within 10 business days of receipt thereof. If the time sheets are not contested by the UPU within the said time frame, the services detailed therein may be deemed as duly provided by the Vendor and accepted by the UPU.

4.8 Other requirements

Bidders shall describe any relevant procedures for ensuring the continuity of the research project despite disruptions that may arise from staff changes, relocation or other manageable risks.

Bidders shall also confirm that their tenders cover all costs associated with the provision of the services referred to herein. Any other costs to be incurred by the Vendor, including any travel and subsistence costs incurred in the provision of the services at locations other than its own premises and specifically designated by the UPU, shall be subject to the prior written consent of the UPU. No other fees shall be paid, with the exception of reimbursement of other unavoidable costs incurred for successful delivery of the services, which shall also be subject to the prior written consent of the UPU.

This project is made possible by payments by a single donor operator. Notwithstanding any other term, a Bidder's tender may be disqualified if that Bidder (or any of the Bidder's agents, consultants, employees, or subcontractors) is a person or entity to which national law or policy of the donor operator would otherwise prohibit payments or exports, including but not limited to any persons or entities appearing on applicable prohibited parties or transactions lists.

4.9 Additional information

Bidders may include any additional information that they deem necessary or relevant in order for the UPU to gain a clear and detailed understanding of the services being offered.

Phase II of the project will be the subject of a separate call for tenders.