

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN
Ministry of Mines



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION TENDER

INFORMATION REQUIRED TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Ministry welcomes all applicants to submit Expressions of Interest for the Oil and Gas Exploration Tender for Exploration and Production Sharing Contracts to explore, develop, and produce hydrocarbons in the Afghan-Tajik Basin in northern Afghanistan. Under Article 30 of the Hydrocarbons Law, the operator of an exploration and production sharing contract must have a good reputation, be in good legal and financial standing, and demonstrate a proven ability to contribute the necessary capital, machinery, equipment, tools and technical expertise to perform its obligations. Article 29 establishes that the Inter-Ministerial Commission, acting through the Ministry of Mines, may require applicants to submit documents to establish such expertise and technical and economic capability. Pursuant to those provisions of the law, the Ministry of Mines therefore requests the following minimum information from each applicant:

1. Full name of company and contact person, postal address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address ;
2. Ownership structure of company or consortium, established as follows:
 - a. In the case of a company organized as a corporation, its full legal name, its place of registration or incorporation, its principal place of business, the names, addresses and nationality of the directors, principal officers and authorized signatories of the company, and its capital structure;
 - b. In the case of a company organized as a partnership, limited liability company, trust, or similar entity that does not have separate incorporation (hereinafter “partnership”),
 - (1) such information on each corporation that is a member of the partnership as is required above, and
 - (2) for each individual who is a member of the partnership, his name, address, and nationality, as well as
 - (3) the capital structure of the partnership;

c. In the case of a consortium or joint venture formed solely for the purpose of participation in this Oil Tender,

(1) such information on each corporation or partnership that is a member of the consortium as is required above, and

(2) a designation signed by an authorized signatory of each member of the consortium as to which member of the consortium is to be designated the operator of the Contract Area, if awarded;

d. For any corporation listed under this paragraph that is owned more than fifty percent, directly or indirectly, by another company, such information on that parent company as would be required above, whether that parent company is a corporation or a partnership;

3. Financial capability of company, established as follows:

a. In the case of a company organized as a corporation or partnership, three years of annual reports, audited balance sheets and profit and loss statements, and any other reports of relevance to financial capability to conduct hydrocarbon operations filed with governmental authorities responsible for securities regulation;

b. In the case of a consortium or joint venture formed solely for the purpose of participation in this Oil Tender, such information on the member of the consortium designated to be the operator of the Contract Area as is required above;

c. For any corporation listed under this paragraph that is owned more than fifty percent, directly or indirectly, by another company, such information on that parent company as would be required above, whether that parent company is a corporation or a partnership;

4. Technical capability of company, established as follows:

a. In the case of a company organized as a corporation or partnership, evidence from reports filed with governmental authorities responsible for securities regulation that the company produces globally more than 5,000 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) per day; OR

b. In the case of a company organized as a corporation or partnership, evidence from reports filed with governmental authorities responsible for securities regulation that the company produces a total of more than 1,000 barrels of oil equivalent (BOE) per day in one or more countries that lie, all or in part, within 1,000 kilometers of the borders of Afghanistan; OR

c. In the case of a company organized as a corporation or partnership, such evidence as the company may need to establish equivalence with the above criteria as being technically capable of exploring, developing, and producing hydrocarbons in northern Afghanistan;

d. In the case of a consortium or joint venture formed solely for the purpose of participation in this Oil Tender, such information on the member of the consortium designated to be the operator of the Contract Area as is required above;

e. For any corporation listed under this paragraph that is owned more than fifty percent, directly or indirectly, by another company, the company may, at its discretion, submit information on its parent company instead of itself in order to demonstrate technical capability.

BIDDING FEE

There is no fee for submission of an Expression of Interest. Upon notification of qualification, the Bidder must pay a non-refundable Bidding Fee of USD 25,000 within ten days. Payment of the Bidding Fee will entitle the qualified Bidder to access to the tender materials, which are expected to be available on or about July 15, 2012, and to consideration of its Bid or Bids for one or more Blocks. Only one Bidding Fee is due, regardless of how many Blocks the Bidder bids. Instructions for payment of the Bidding Fee will be given at the time of notification of qualification.

TIMING

It is expected that the tender process will proceed according to the following timeline:

March 7, 2012	Announcement of Tender and Requests for Expression of Interest
June 30, 2012	Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest
Early July 2012	Notification of Qualification and posting of list of qualified Bidders
July 15, 2012	Tender materials available
Late July 2012	Bidder Information Meetings (location to be determined, likely Dubai)
October 31, 2012	Bids Due
November 3, 2012	Public opening of bids
December 15, 2012	Announcement of Wining Bidders
March 31, 2013	Award of Exploration and Production Sharing Contracts

The timeline may be subject to change at the discretion of the Ministry of Mines.

SUBMISSION

All documents may be submitted in English, but must be accompanied by an Executive Summary of maximum five pages in one of the official languages of Afghanistan. Voluminous corporate reporting information (10-K, 10-Q, Annual Reports, etc.) may be submitted in English only.

It is recognized that some consortia or joint ventures formed for the purpose of participation in this Oil Tender will not have consolidated financial reports and operating history. As noted above, those applicants must provide sufficient information for the Ministry to evaluate the qualifications of the consortium or joint venture, and each consortium or joint venture must have a designated operator.

Companies may create consortia or joint ventures after qualification and before submission of bids, but at least one of the members must have been qualified and must be designated as the operator of record of the Contract Area, and the consortium or joint venture formed after qualification must meet all qualification requirements as if it had been qualified.

Qualified companies must continue to satisfy qualification criteria through the award of the Contract Area. Any material changes during the Bid Round to information relating to the company's qualifications previously submitted must be amended, even if the company has already received notice that it is qualified.

The Expression of Interest must be submitted electronically **no later than June 30, 2012 at 1200 hrs local time Kabul** to OilTender@mom.gov.af and, if desired, a hard copy may be delivered to the following address:

Afghanistan Ministry of Mines
Mr. Ramatullah Kawsary
Pashtoonistan Watt
Across from Ministry of Finance
Kabul, Afghanistan
Telephone: +93 (0) 202100309

Requests for clarification of this Request of Expression of Interest must be submitted to the Ministry by e-mail to OilTender@mom.gov.af. Responses will be communicated in writing to all prospective bidders on the Ministry website. Applicants are advised to regularly check this website at <http://www.mom.gov.af>.