

Annual Program Statement - ICT Talent Grants, Tunisia.

MENA ICT Talent enhances the region's ICT landscape through education and partnerships, focusing on public HEIs, ICT departments, and talented students in Tunisia. Concept papers are invited.

Released	10/28/2024 12:00 AM WEST	Type	Request for Application
Open	10/28/2024 10:00 AM WEST	Number	216-5074-01-2024-017-RFA
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Commodity Codes

Commodity Code	Description
GRANT DISBURSEMENTS	

Description

Annual Program Statement

• SUMMARY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) NUMBER | 216-5074-01-2024-017-RFA |
| 1. NOFO ISSUE DATE | October 28, 2024 |
| 1. NOFO TITLE | ICT Talent Grants, Tunisia |
| 1. MSI CLIENT AND PRIME CONTRACT NUMBER | USAID GS00Q14OADU138/7200AA18M0014 |
| 1. ANTICIPATED TYPE OF AWARD | In-Kind Grants |
| 1. MSI PROJECT NAME AND NUMBER | Teaching and Learning for Education Excellence in the Middle East (TALEEM) |
| 1. SUBMISSION DUE DATE & TIME | Ongoing Until October 28, 2025 |
| 1. QUESTIONS ACCEPTED UP TO (DATE & TIME) | On an Ongoing Basis, with Responses Posted to ... |
| 1. APPLICANT CONFERENCE DATE AND LOCATION | Multiple Dates and Times to be Announced to Registered Parties |
| 1. INITIAL PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE | January 2025 – July 2027 |
| 1. OPPORTUNITY FOR RENEWAL | Yes, Refer to Renewals Section |
1. 10. Introduction

The Teaching and Learning for Education Excellence in the Middle East and North Africa (TALEEM) is a United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project designed to conduct a variety of multi-country research, capacity-strengthening, and analytical support activities to advance student learning and success in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). It is implemented by Management Systems International (MSI). TALEEM is launching the MENA Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Talent Development Initiative (“MENA ICT Talent”) in Morocco, Jordan and Tunisia. This initiative is a two-year USAID-funded activity designed to sponsor ICT networking certificates; provide lab equipment, software, and technology at universities; and develop curriculum through universities and training centers. The primary focus is on MENA region Higher Education ICT engineering departments, professors, and talented ICT students.

Approach: MENA ICT Talent will provide the above key components and, where appropriate, implement grants and direct procurement of goods and services in close partnership with the respective ministries of Higher Education and public HEIs. This initiative is designed to work closely with and complement other USAID-funded activities, donor-funded programs, and local initiatives, filling immediate gaps and maximizing impact.

This grants program is funded by USAID and is authorized in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act. Issuance of an APS does not constitute an award commitment on the part of MSI, nor does it commit MSI to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of concept notes or preparation of full applications. MSI reserves the right to fund all or none of the applications received. All preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense.

Key Components:

Sponsorship of ICT Certifications: Including, but not exclusively, U.S. private sector companies such as Cisco, Microsoft, IBM, Google, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and others.

Provision of ICT Lab Equipment and Software: Public Higher Education Institutions (HEI) of ICT and Computer Science engineering departments.

ICT Course Development: For courses not currently available on open online platforms (MOOCs).

This Annual Program Statement (APS) invites concept papers from organizations capable of implementing these activities to foster partnerships, create long-term preferences for U.S. technology, and open standards.

APS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MENA ICT Talent aims to enhance the ICT landscape in the MENA region through strategic investments in education, capacity strengthening, and public-private partnerships. This APS seeks to solicit concept papers from MENA-region public HEIs to implement activities that support the initiative's goals. The program's primary focus is on ICT and computer engineering departments, professors, and talented ICT students in Tunisia.

The initiative encompasses three primary goals. First, it funds U.S.-tech based ICT networking and digital certifications for high-achieving students, emphasizing inclusivity to equip them for various industry roles. This includes providing essential lab equipment and software to selected universities and higher education institutions (HEIs) through partnerships with leading U.S. tech companies. Second, the initiative supports the training and certification of professors in higher education institutions (HEIs) and focuses on upskilling them to deliver improved content. Third, it assists in developing and designing ICT courses for universities and online platforms (MOOCs), thus increasing accessibility and flexibility for students, particularly those with limited English proficiency. The initiative also aims to build the capacity of government ministries and local authorities by upskilling them in ICT and emerging technologies through collaboration with the private sector. It supports the development and design of ICT courses at universities and through online platforms (MOOCs), enhancing accessibility and flexibility for students, particularly those with limited English proficiency.

By placing special emphasis on supporting HEIs by providing grants that address gaps in existing programming and prioritize urgent community needs, MENA ICT Talent aims to deliver rapid, tangible results. This approach ensures that financial support directly benefits organizations and initiatives with the potential to make a significant impact, aligning with the program's overarching goals of fostering long-term preferences for U.S. technology and open standards in the MENA region.

The two areas that grants could address are:

1. Sponsorship of U.S.-Tech Based ICT Certifications

- **Objective:** To sponsor professors and high-performing students in the MENA region, providing them with access to U.S.-based ICT networking and digital certifications. This initiative focuses on inclusivity, targeting women, religious and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities, to prepare them for employment in the public and private sectors, as well as entrepreneurship.
- **Activities:** The grants will fund certifications from industry leaders such as, but not exclusively, Cisco, IBM, Google, AWS and Microsoft. Additionally, the grants will provide necessary ICT lab equipment and software to selected HEIs, ensuring that students have access to state-of-the-art technology. Potential scholarships will also be supported to foster exchange, encourage innovation and practical application of skills.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Increased number of certified students, enhanced diversity in the ICT workforce, improved quality of education through better-equipped laboratories, and stronger partnerships between universities and U.S. tech companies.

1. Development and Design of ICT Courses

- **Objective:** To support the creation and implementation of ICT-related courses at universities and through online platforms (MOOCs), in collaboration with U.S. and MENA private sector partners.
- **Activities:** The grants will fund the development of new courses and the adaptation of existing ones to be delivered both in-person and online. This includes providing resources for course development, ensuring availability in both English and French, and integrating industry-relevant content such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and emerging technologies. Partnerships with platforms like Coursera, edX, and Edraak will be leveraged to expand reach and flexibility.
- **Expected Outcomes:** Increased access to high-quality ICT education for students and young professionals, improved curriculum standards at participating universities, and greater alignment of academic programs with industry needs, thereby enhancing employability of graduates.

By addressing these two areas, MENA ICT Talent aims to create a comprehensive support system that fosters the growth of ICT education and capacity in the MENA region. This approach not only prepares students and professionals for future opportunities but also builds a robust framework for sustainable development in the ICT sector.

Cross-cutting Considerations:

Grants issued under the TALEEM ICT Initiative should address several cross-cutting themes to ensure holistic development and sustainability of the ICT sector in the MENA region. These considerations include:

- **Inclusivity and Diversity:**

- Ensure that grants target diverse groups, including women, religious and ethnic minorities, and individuals with disabilities. Applicants must demonstrate how their proposed activities will inclusively engage these groups. This could include tailored outreach strategies, provision of accessible learning materials, and specific incentives to encourage participation from underrepresented communities.

- **Environmental Sustainability:**

- Promote environmentally friendly practices in ICT education and capacity-building initiatives. Proposals should incorporate sustainable practices such as energy-efficient equipment, electronic waste management plans, and the use of digital resources to minimize paper consumption. Applicants are encouraged to detail how they will minimize environmental impact and promote sustainability in their activities.

- **Gender and Youth Leadership:**

- Foster leadership among women and youth in ICT-related projects. Grants should prioritize activities that empower women and youth to take on significant leadership roles. This can include leadership training programs, mentorship opportunities, and specific roles for women and youth in project implementation and decision-making processes.

- **Psychosocial Support and Well-being:**

- Address the psychosocial needs of students and professionals engaged in ICT education. Applicants should provide information on available psychosocial support services and referrals. This includes mental health resources, stress management workshops, and creating a supportive learning environment that acknowledges and addresses the mental health challenges faced by participants.

- **Public-Private Partnerships:**

- Leverage the expertise and resources of private sector partners to enhance the effectiveness of ICT initiatives. Proposals should highlight existing or potential partnerships with U.S. and MENA private sector companies. These partnerships can provide access to cutting-edge technology, industry insights, and additional funding

opportunities. Applicants should detail how these collaborations will be structured and managed to maximize impact.

- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):**

- Ensure continuous improvement and accountability through robust MEL frameworks. Proposals must include comprehensive MEL plans that outline how activities will be monitored and evaluated. This should include specific indicators for success, data collection methods, and mechanisms for incorporating feedback and lessons learned into ongoing and future activities.

- **Digital Literacy and Accessibility:**

- Enhance digital literacy and ensure accessibility of ICT resources and training. Applicants should propose strategies to improve digital literacy among participants, particularly those with limited prior exposure to ICT. This includes developing user-friendly materials, offering basic digital skills training, and ensuring that online resources are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

- **Addressing Programmatic Gaps:**

- Focus on gaps in existing programming in terms of the types of activities and target groups. Applicants must demonstrate that the activity type is not being conducted and the target group is not being reached by the applicant or any other organization or donor in the target area.

- **Commitment to Safety and Sustainability:**

- Demonstrate that the applicant has established procedures and processes in place to **do no harm** in implementation of the proposed activities to workers, participants, beneficiaries, and the community, while also emphasizing the commitment to environmentally friendly practices in the proposed activities.

M&E

1. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR AWARD

Applications that are considered eligible (see Section III below), that conform to the requirements stated in this APS, and that are received before the end of this APS will be evaluated for award on the basis of the Evaluation Criteria set forth below.

Evaluation criteria	Points
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Technical Approach.	
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|---|----|
| 1. Does the application respond to a critical need identified by the proposed target community and beneficiary group, particularly in the context of the current ICT education and capacity-strengthening challenges in the MENA region? | 30 |
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Does the proposal present **evidence** that this need exists and is not being addressed by other donor-funded programs or related efforts?

Does the application address **target beneficiaries** not reached or underserved by other donor-funded programs or initiatives?

Are the target communities and beneficiaries the most in need of assistance, focusing on inclusivity and diversity, environmental sustainability, digital literacy, and accessibility?

Will the proposed activities achieve **tangible, visible results** for individuals in the target communities within 3 to 6 months after grant award, ensuring sustainability of ICT equipment and fostering leadership among youth, both young men and women and young people with disabilities?

Coherence.

How well do the proposed certifications and activities align with and support the current curriculum and educational objectives, or address identified gaps where additional support may be needed?

2. Is there a clear and logical **connection** between the certifications, the proposed activities, and the requested equipment? 20

Does the proposal demonstrate that the proposed activities will **effectively utilize** the provided resources to achieve the desired educational outcomes?

Sustainability.

Does the applicant propose an approach that ensures the sustainable use and maintenance of ICT equipment in the target community or with the target group?

Does evidence indicate that the approach is likely to succeed and be maintained over time?

3. Does evidence indicate that the applicant has experience leveraging technological know-how, resources and in-kind support from U.S. private sector companies? 20

Does evidence indicate that the applicant has experience working with its ministry of higher education to sustain resources and outcomes of its programming?

Organizational Capability and Leadership.

4. Does the applicant demonstrate the ability, with current or proposed staffing and/or leadership structure, to effectively implement the proposed activities, and other relevant requirements? 15

5. **Maximizing Benefits to the Community.** Do the proposed costs maximize benefits to the community and beneficiaries, including, as appropriate, providing short-term employment to critical groups (ie: youth, young people with disabilities) and minimize overall management and operational costs? 15

TOTAL

100

TALEEM/MSI's Grant Evaluation Committee will review and evaluate each concept paper based on the criteria described above. Applications will be reviewed based on the order of their submission, with priority given to those received first.

1. INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANT

Any grant awards resulting from this APS will be made in line with USAID's ADS 302.3.5.6, "Grants Under Contracts" and will adhere to ADS Chapter 303, "Grants and Cooperative Agreements to Non-Governmental Organizations", the project's grants manual, as well as any special terms and conditions specified in this APS.

TALEEM will review applications on the basis of the criteria and instructions set forth as follows in this document. To be considered for award, applicants must respond to all of the requests and requirements of this application to the best of their ability, including those which must be provided through MSI's online grants and procurement system, GRUMP.

To apply, follow the following instructions:

1. **Read** the entire contents of this APS document to make sure you understand the scope of the program, what types of activities and who is eligible, and other considerations.
2. **Register in GRUMP**. GRUMP is MSI's online Grants and Procurements Management System to manage the process of soliciting, evaluating, selecting and issuing awards. Follow the instructions provided in [this](#) link to register in GRUMP and you may also watch [this](#) YouTube video for more detailed instructions.
3. **Prerequisites**. All offerors interested in submitting proposals in response to the APS must review and accept the requirements listed in the "**Prerequisites**" section of this business opportunity in MSI GRUMP.
4. Ask **questions** via GRUMP. Submit questions separately via the "**Questions**" board section of this opportunity in GRUMP.
5. Complete the **Concept Paper Template** in full. Concept papers can be submitted in **French** or **English** using the appropriate template. Please read the concept paper instructions carefully and complete the template in full in GRUMP.
6. **Upload** your **concept paper** including a **simplified cost proposal** to the "Submissions" section of this business opportunity in GRUMP.

What happens after I apply?

1. TALEEM will **review** and **score** your concept paper in accordance with the **scoring criteria presented** above. If the application **receives more than 60 points**, it will be discussed with TALEEM and USAID for fit with project priorities and ensure no duplication with other USAID or other efforts. As part of the review process, TALEEM may request additional information or ask clarifying questions.

2. **Successful** applicants at the concept paper stage will be provided with further templates and instructions to develop a full application. Acceptance of the concept paper does not constitute any commitment to eventually award a grant. All final grant applications must be approved by USAID.

3. **Unsuccessful** applicants can request feedback and are welcome to submit another concept paper while this APS remains open.

1. AWARD INFORMATION:

1. TYPE OF AWARD

MSI anticipates awarding **Fixed AWARD or In-Kind Award, or both together combined** to meet the objectives detailed in Section II. If you are unfamiliar with these types of grants, please request additional information from TALEEM by asking a question in GRUMP.

1. NUMBER AND SIZE OF AWARD

Grants to be awarded under this NOFO may vary in size from **USD 50,000** to a maximum of **USD 100,000**. A grant of a value lower or higher than this range may be considered based on the discretion of the Grant Evaluation Committee (GEC). Applicants are encouraged to apply for a grant size that can be managed within their organization's current capabilities. TALEEM anticipates issuance of 5 to 10 grants under this APS, with the exact number of grants subject to change based on available funds, successful applicants, and programmatic priorities.

1. EXPECTED PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE OF AWARD

We expect most awards to be **three to 10 months**, although some grants could be for shorter or longer periods if the proposed activity is ascertained to require a longer or shorter duration. Renewal grants may also be allowed per clause (d) below.

1. RENEWALS

Awards made under this NOFO may be eligible for annual renewals providing a possibility of a subsequent award to receive additional support for the project for succeeding periods, activities, or milestones, if so determined by MSI. The overall period of the grant, including all renewals, shall not exceed the period of performance of the USAID prime award under which this NOFO and resulting awards shall be made.

MSI shall inform the Awardee approximately 30 days before the end of the period of performance of the initial grant if the said awardee will be eligible to apply for a renewal grant. Funding of any renewal period or expansion of activities is contingent on the following:

- TALEEM programmatic needs;
- Satisfactory progress towards meeting the award objectives and demonstrated results;
- Availability of funds;
- Submittal of required reports; and
- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the award, including the conditions for renewal.

If informed by TALEEM, Awardee will submit a detailed workplan for the renewal period along with a detailed budget to be considered for the renewal opportunity.

1. CONSORTIUMS

Organizations may form consortiums to apply for this grant as long as there is a primary leading organization to enter into a binding agreement with MSI/TALEEM.

1. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR AWARD (PLEASE REVIEW THE “PREREQUISITES” SECTION ONLINE)**

1. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

Applicants must be Public Higher Education Institutions (HEI) of ICT and Computer Science engineering **legally registered with the local Authority** with a recent history of implementing activities in the focus areas of this NOFO.

1. INELIGIBLE ENTITIES

The following are not eligible for grant support: political parties or organizations; organizations that advocate, promote or espouse anti-democratic policies or illegal activities; faith-based organizations whose programs and services discriminate based on religion, and whose main objective of the grant is of a religious nature; and any entity whose name appears on the:

1. List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs (<https://www.sam.gov>);

1. Specially Designated Nationals List

(<http://sdnsearch.ofac.treas.gov/Default.aspx>); and

1. The United Nations Security Council ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List

(https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1267/aq_sanctions_list).

Governmental and quasi-governmental organizations are not eligible to apply, including entities controlled all or in part by the Palestinian Authority.

1. ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

1. Activities that are eligible for funding include those that support the objectives stated in this NOFO and the goals of the TALEEM Project. Any purchases or activities that are not necessary to accomplish the purposes of this Grants Program are considered ineligible activities.

1. Specific cost items that are unallowable under a grant include: profit or fee; application preparation costs; payment of debts; political elections; fees for public and elected government officials; fines and penalties; creation of endowments; military equipment; surveillance equipment; commodities and services for support of police and other law enforcement activities; abortion equipment and services; luxury goods and gambling equipment; parties or “representation” expenses; purchases of restricted goods without prior USAID approval, such as agricultural commodities, motor vehicles, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, used equipment, and fertilizer; and purchases of goods or services from any firm or individual whose name appears on the lists of Ineligible Entities above.

1. Project activities can only start after signature of the grant agreement between the applicant and TALEEM. Costs incurred before signing of the grant agreement will not be reimbursed, unless previously approved in writing by the MSI Director of Contracts and Grants or their designee.

1. OTHER APPLICATION GUIDELINES AND NOTICES

The following conditions, guidelines and notices are included to assist you in preparing a competent application. All of them should be reflected in your submission.

1. LANGUAGE

Offerors shall provide all proposal documentation in **English or French**.

1. SOURCE AND NATIONALITY (USAID)

The USAID authorized geographic code for the procurement of goods and services under MSI's contract is 937 (Code 937 is defined as the United States, the cooperating/recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, and excluding prohibited sources). A current list of eligible countries and further information on Source and Nationality may be found at www.usaid.gov/ads/policy/300/310.

Applicants must agree that no services will be rendered through a service provider in any foreign policy restricted country or any designated "prohibited source".

1. MODIFICATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF NOFO

MSI reserves the right to modify by written notice the terms of this NOFO at any time in its sole discretion. MSI also reserves the right to withdraw this NOFO at any time—with or without statement of cause—prior to actual award.

1. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTING FOR CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SERVICES OR EQUIPMENT (AUG 2020)

1. Definitions. As used in this clause—

- Covered foreign country means The People's Republic of China.
- Covered telecommunications equipment or services means equipment produced or services provided by the following companies or their subsidiaries/affiliates: Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation, Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company. Also included in this definition are telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity reasonably believed to be owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

1. Prohibition. U.S. regulation prohibits procuring or obtaining or extending or renewing a contract to procure or obtain, any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology

as part of any system. The grantee is prohibited from using grant funds to procure any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system, unless an exception or waiver

2. Reporting requirement. In the event the grantee identifies covered telecommunications equipment or services during grant implementation, or the grantee is notified of such by a subcontractor at any tier or by any other source, the grantee shall inform MSI within one business day from the date of such identification or notification and await further instruction.

1. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

Information pertaining to MSI, TALEEM, USAID and USAID's partners obtained by the Applicant as a result of participation in this NOFO is confidential and shall not be disclosed at any time without prior written authorization from MSI's authorized representative.

1. SAM AND UEI ARE REQUIRED REGISTRATIONS FOR AWARDS (REQUIRED FOR AWARDS ABOVE USD 25,000)

Selected applicants must be registered with the U.S. Government database at www.sam.gov. Registration is free of charge and instructions to register can be found online at https://www.sam.gov/sam/SAM_Guide/SAM_User_Guide.htm. Additionally, the successful applicant must register for a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) #. To obtain a UEI please sign in or create a new account at SAM.gov. A step-by-step training video guide is also linked here to help you obtain a UEI through SAM.gov: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uv1YNAsINk>

An exception to this requirement can only be made by MSI's Director of Contracts and Grants Management.

An exception to this requirement can only be made by MSI's Director of Contracts and Grants Management.

1. DONOR REQUIRED FLOW-DOWN CLAUSES

Selected applicants must comply with the donor required rules and regulations in **Annex A**.

Applicants are encouraged to review these required rules and regulations to ensure that they will be able to comply with them if an award is made.

1. Fraud Reporting

Should any person demand/request consideration in exchange of this NOFO or promises successful selection in exchange for consideration, please contact ethics@msi-inc.com.

1. PRE-AWARD CERTIFICATIONS

Before receiving any USAID grants, successful applicants are expected to provide certifications as required by US legislation. A copy of all certifications can be found for review at [ADS Chapter 303: A Mandatory Reference - Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of the Recipient \(usaid.gov\)](#) or [Review the attached Annex A – Grants Pre-Award Certifications](#). Applicants are required to familiarize themselves with the following:

- Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers for Covered Countries and Individuals (ADS 206).
- Certification Regarding Support to Terrorists
- Certification Regarding Trafficking in Persons.
- Certification Regarding Lobbying (22 CFR 227).

Successful applicants will be requested to submit their full application package including the final concept paper, detailed cost proposal, implementation plan and milestones schedule.

ANNEX A. DONOR FLOW-DOWN CLAUSES AND MANDATORY CERTIFICATIONS

DONOR REQUIRED FLOW-DOWN CLAUSES

Selected applicants must comply with the following USAID and US Government required rules and regulations:

1. Any resulting award will be subject to the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations at USAID Automated Directives System (ADS), which may be found online at [ADS Reference 303mab | Document | U.S. Agency for International Development \(usaid.gov\)](#) or are available on request.
2. Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations receiving a fixed amount award can be accessed at [Standard Provisions for Fixed Amount Awards to Nongovernmental Organizations - A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 303 \(usaid.gov\)](#)
3. The following U.S. Government regulations shall serve as the primary reference for U.S. organizations for any questions regarding policies, procedures, and allowable costs, not specifically addressed elsewhere in this Award:
 - 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, Cost Principles (available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part200-subpartE.pdf) or 48 CFR part 31 (available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title48-vol1/pdf/CFR-2011-title48-vol1-part31.pdf), as applicable
 - 2 CFR 200, Subpart F, Audit Requirements (available at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part200-subpartF.pdf), as applicable.

Applicants are encouraged to review these required rules and regulations to ensure that they will be able to comply with them if an award is made.

Offerors are advised to review the Buyer Attachment, particularly the following sections, which are required for successful submission of applications.

- Prerequisites: All offerors interested in submitting proposals in response to this RFA must review and accept the requirements listed in the "Prerequisites" section of this opportunity in MSI GRUMP.
- Submission: Please submit your technical and price/cost applications by uploading each separately via the "Questions" section of this opportunity in MSI GRUMP.
- Items: After uploading your application in the "Questions" section, please enter the total cost of your offer in the "Items" section.

Any questions or clarifications must be submitted via the "Q&A Board" found in the menu to the left, by the due date for questions/clarifications listed in the "Summary" menu tab. Responses to questions received shall be shared with all interested parties via the Q&A Board forum.

Applications must be submitted through this system by the date stated in the "Summary" tab.

Prerequisites

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Buyer Attachments

1. [APS Concept Note Template.docx](#)
2. [Tunisia APS FINAL.docx](#)

Group 1:

Instructions:

- Technical Approach.
- Does the application respond to a critical need identified by the proposed target community and beneficiary group, particularly in the context of the current ICT education and capacity-strengthening challenges in the MENA region?
- Does the proposal present evidence that this need exists and is not being addressed by other donor-funded programs or related efforts?
- 1.1 Does the application address target beneficiaries not reached or underserved by other donor-funded programs or initiatives? ★
- Are the target communities and beneficiaries the most in need of assistance, focusing on inclusivity and diversity, environmental sustainability, digital literacy, and accessibility?
- Will the proposed activities achieve tangible, visible results for individuals in the target communities within 3 to 6 months after grant award, ensuring sustainability of ICT equipment and fostering leadership among youth, both young men and women and young people with disabilities? 30 Points.
- Coherence.
- 1.2 How well do the proposed certifications and activities align with and support the current curriculum and educational objectives, or address identified gaps where additional support may be needed? Is there a clear and logical connection between the certifications, the proposed activities, and the requested equipment? ★
- Does the proposal demonstrate that the proposed activities will effectively utilize the provided resources to achieve the desired educational outcomes? 20 Points.
- Sustainability.
- 1.3 Does the applicant propose an approach that ensures the sustainable use and maintenance of ICT equipment in the target community or with the target group? Does evidence indicate that the approach is likely to succeed and be maintained over time? ★
- Does evidence indicate that the applicant has experience leveraging technological know-how, resources and in-kind support from U.S. private sector companies?
- Does evidence indicate that the applicant has experience working with its ministry of higher education to sustain resources and outcomes of its programming? 20 Points.
- Organizational Capability and Leadership.
- 1.4 Does the applicant demonstrate the ability, with current or proposed staffing and/or leadership structure, to effectively implement the proposed activities, and other relevant requirements? 15 Points. ★
- 1.5 Maximizing Benefits to the Community. Do the proposed costs maximize benefits to the community and beneficiaries, including, as appropriate, providing short-term employment to critical groups (ie: youth, young people with disabilities) and minimize overall management and operational costs? 15 Points. ★

Product Line Items

★ Product Line Items

There are no Goods/Services Requested added to this event.

Service Line Items

★ Service Line Items

There are no Goods/Services Requested added to this event.